A directory of North Carolina's Congressional delegation

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Volume 29, No. 3, March 1997

# CAROLINA COUNTRY

Official publication of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

## What's down the line for electric utilities?

*A special report inside*

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*An Important Announcement to North Carolina Homeowners with Equity . . . .*

# What Would You Do With An Extra $3,600 to $12,000 per year?

## How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills**

(Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

**Rockingham, N.C.** - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

### No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

### "I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was $358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping $4,296 per year, TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch, AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

### Home Equity is the Key

*Carole Eskew, Sr., V.P.*

"If you have a minimum of 20% equity or more, there's a good chance we can help you save a lot of money every month by combining old bills and your old mortgage into one new and much lower payment. Or, we can help you get cash out of your home to buy a vacation home, start a business, whatever."

*Compare your budget to this:*

| Amt. | Owed | Payment |
|---|---|---|
| $12,000 | 2nd Mortgage | $200.00 |
| 8,500 | Auto Loan | 375.00 |
| 2,000 | VISA | 100.00 |
| 2,000 | MasterCard | 100.00 |
| **$25,000** | **Current Payment** | **$775.00** |

**-After Harvest Mortgage -**

New Payment: $187.82/mo.

APR 9.077% / 30 yr. term

**You Save: $587.18/mo., $7,046.16/yr.**

** Rates subject to change*

"I couldn't believe it. We closed our loan 9 days after the first day I talked to them on the phone."

*Debbie C., Dallas*

"We ended up paying off all our bills and rolling them all into one single payment. After we did, our total monthly payments dropped by almost $400 per month."

*Billy and Judy., Columbus*

"Thanks to you and your great company, we feel reborn. Words can not express the relief we feel. We are so glad this battle with the bills is almost over."

*James and Laurie C.*

### Recent Loans Include:

- A $45,000 loan to a borrower in bankruptcy.
- A $100,000 loan to a borrower who couldn't verify income through tax returns.
- A $95,000 bill-consolidation loan that saved the borrower over $8,100 per year and a whopping $124,000 over the loan period.

*(No singlewides, please)*

### No Ivory Towers

"When you apply for a loan at Harvest Mortgage, your loan request is reviewed and decided upon by the people right in our office," says a Harvest executive. He added, "Since we are direct lenders, we don't send the information to some guys off somewhere in New York or California. We review and approve loans right here in town locally."

### Fast Approval and Closing

That means we can get your loan closed in a matter of days, and you never have to go out of your living room until you're ready to close."

### Loan For Purchase or Refinance

Harvest Mortgage officials report that whether you are buying, refinancing a house, just looking to consolidate some bills, get cash for your property, they have created programs to give you the money you're looking for. Different loan programs include:

- Loans to Borrowers with good credit, with the most competitive rates in the country. These are available for purchasing a new home or refinancing.
- Loans to borrowers with a lot of equity homeowners who have slow credit or have even been bankrupt.
- Cash out loans for investment property with a lot of equity.
- Loans for borrowers who want to do additions or remodel their homes.

### Check This Out For Free

To see how much money you may be able to get and exactly how much your payments would be, you can check it out by just picking up the phone and calling us. Be sure to ask for Carolyn Reid at **1-800-972-LEND (5363)**. Or for a **FREE** report on **HOW Harvest Mortgage** can work for you, call toll-free **1-888-697-LOAN (5626)** for a 24-hour recorded message. All of this doesn't cost you a dime, so you owe it to yourself. Don't put this off any longer. Do it now while you're thinking about it! You have got nothing to lose and everything to gain. Call Now!

**Harvest Mortgage Company Inc.**
**Mortgage Bankers**
North Carolina Residential Mortgage Licensee
**Subject to Qualification

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**CAROLINA COUNTRY**
(ISSN 0008-6746)
Read monthly in more than 356,000 homes
Volume 29, No. 3, March 1997

Official Publication of
North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives
(800) 662-8835

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 700,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 28 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

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Carolina Country ® is published by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Phone: (800) 662-8835, ext. 310. Carolina Country is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Individual subscriptions, $8 per year.

To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.

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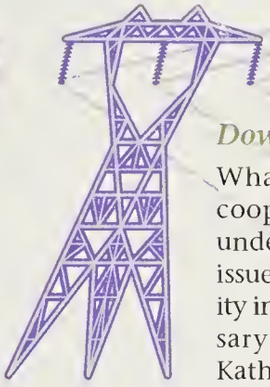
Volume 29, No. 3, March 1997

# CAROLINA COUNTRY

## The Politics of Electricity

*A special edition about the changing electric utility industry*



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# 6 reasons why there's no need for state legislation to re-regulate the electric utility industry in North Carolina

*by Carolyn Herr Watts*

While some state governments, members of Congress and industry lobbyists are pressing ahead to re-regulate the electric utility industry for their own reasons, we in North Carolina have strong reasons to proceed more carefully in this matter.

For the benefit of consumer-members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, here is a summary of our reasons.

*1. Economic growth is strong*

North Carolina continues to be a leader in attracting new business and industry. The strong and stable electric industry here is one reason for this growth. Reliable, affordable power has helped develop the economies in rural areas, much to the credit of electric cooperatives that work closely with businesses and their need for infrastructure and facilities. In contrast, the states that are planning to experiment with electric industry re-regulation generally have weaker economies.

*2. The current system is working well*

The average price of electricity in North Carolina is stable and relatively low — below the national average. Power supply is sufficient and service reliability is excellent. Electric utilities are already taking steps to gain further efficiencies. North Carolina's careful, deliberate approach has enabled the state to avoid the costly mistakes of regulatory fads in high-cost states such as California and New Hampshire, where electric rates today are almost twice as high as in North Carolina.

*3. The public is not pushing for change*

Citizens in North Carolina, like those across the nation, are not asking to change the system. Much more public discussion is needed before citizen consumers understand the issues enough to judge their merits. Citizens will realize that radical change in the electric service industry would have considerable effects on their families and businesses, as well as the economy and environment of North Carolina.

*4. Why experiment here?*

North Carolina should let the states where electricity costs are high perform the risky experiments of changing the electric utility system. From them we can learn what works and what does not, and thereby avoid costly mistakes in altering the delivery of this vital service.

*5. Examine the results of federal changes first*

We should wait to assess the effects of recent federal rulings that already are causing major changes in the wholesale electric power market. These changes gave allowed electric cooperatives to lower power costs for members in many areas. Much work remains to be done to fully implement these changes before knowing if they are needed at the retail level.

*6. Too many unanswered questions*

In general, re-regulation proposals so far provide only broad outlines for change without answering many tough, specific questions. We need solid answers before deciding if a new regulatory system would produce better overall results for North Carolina and its citizens than the existing system.

This edition of Carolina Country presents the general picture of proposals for changing the electric utility system in the U.S. and North Carolina. It reflects our commitment to inform members of important issues facing their cooperative utility. We will continue to convey news of these issues in many different forums, and we encourage you to let us know what you think.

---

*Carolyn Herr Watts is vice president of Corporate Relations for the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.*

## Do you receive Carolina Country? Has your address changed?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of the electric cooperatives listed below. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative.

If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

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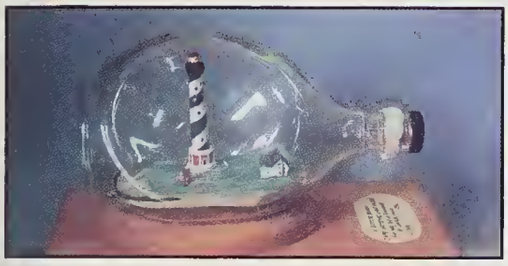
## No contest

Since we prepared our report on the book "Crimes Against Children," [Carolina Close-Up," February 1997], we learned that there is a better phrase than the one used by the book's author to refer to the sentencing of a defendant who pleads "no contest" to charges. Rather than "judged guilty" and sentenced, the defendant is sentenced as if found guilty. In the Little Rascals case cited in the book, two defendants pleaded "no contest" to child abuse charges and were sentenced by the court. –*MG*



## Lighthouse in a bottle

In May 1996 you used a photo of the south side of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. I had run across several views of the north side in various sources, but your south side view was the clincher I needed to make a reasonably accurate model.

The model is to a scale of 1:1200 (1 inch = 100 inches) and is inside a 1-liter bottle. The base incorporates batteries and a switch to light the 6-volt miniature bulb.

The model was made as a gift for a lady here in Haywood County who was instrumental in finding our home here in 1994.

I also shared details of making the model with a few hundred colleagues via the 1996, No. 3 issue of The Bottle Shipwright, the quarterly journal of the Ships-In-Bottles Association of America.

*Charles Hand, carafologist*
*Canton*

*P.S. "Carafology" isn't in the dictionaries yet. Some of us are trying to rectify that in memory of the fellow in England who coined it (Jack Needham, whose fine book on the subject is now ont of print).*

## Ava Gardner: corrections for the record

Thank you so much for the stories about Ava Gardner and Smithfield's Ava Gardner Museum ["The Goddess of Grabtown," January 1997]. There were a few errors, however, that I'd like to correct.

First, Ava's parents were a devoted couple and were never separated in a marital sense. In the mid-1920s, when Ava was two years old, she and both her parents moved into a former school building in the Brogden community near Smithfield, and her parents operated that building as a boarding house for public school teachers.

Second, Ava married film star Mickey Rooney in 1942, not Andy Rooney, television's "60 Minutes" humorist. (In 1942, Mickey Rooney was the biggest box office draw in America and the highest paid star a MGM.)

Third, the statement that Ava's marriage to the intellectual band leader Artie Shaw collapsed because he decided that she was "not a promising pupil" gives the impression that Ava was not terribly bright and that she did not do well in the courses she took through UCLA while married to Shaw. She was extremely intelligent and made excellent grades. She was a cherished friend of author Ernest Hemingway, England's poet laureate Robert Graves, and others who, regardless of her beauty, would not have been interested in her companionship if she had not been on their intellectual level. (In 1953, Ava was nominated for a "Best Actress" Academy Award for her role in "Mogambo" with Clark Gable and in 1964 was nominated for a "Best Actress" Golden Globe Award for her role in "The Night of the Iguana" with Richard Burton.)

Fourth, Dr. Thomas M. Banks, the Wilson native whose memorabilia collection became the heart and soul of the Ava Gardner Museum, was a psychologist, not a dentist.

A multitude of erroneous stories were published about Ava in the past, and current writers who use those stories as resources do not realize they are in error. A story published over half a century ago and still widely circulated in print (thankfully, it was not included in the Carolina Country articles) states that Ava Gardner's real name was "Lucy Johnson."

The late film star was born "Ava Lavinia Gardener" and never went by any other name. The "Lucy Johnson" error is even in a current North Carolina fourth grade social studies textbook, much to the dismay of Ava's fans and surviving family members.

Again, thank you for putting the spotlight on Ava and the Ava Gardner Museum, and for allowing a little straightening of the record.

***Doris Rollins Cannon, chairman emeritus***
***Ava Gardner Museum, 205 South Third Street, Smithfield, N.C. 27577***

## No flowers, no birds

My mother always had a green thumb and I grew up with a beautiful yard and house plants everywhere. I don't have a lot of money, but I make sure I buy my plants from my favorite nursery in Norlina.

Last year in February, I moved into my trailer and there was a beautiful garden around a very large old acorn tree. I worked it back, as it hadn't been touched in years. Then all my spring flowers died. I had petunias and marigolds. This fall I put in pansies and mums. I put on cow manure, purchased from Wal-mart. My mums died, but my pansies are beautiful. I left the leaves that fell around the pansies.

Also, I bought a cedar bird feeder and hung it in the acorn tree about 4 or 5 inches above the ground. It also has suet on both ends. I have not had one bird, and it's been hanging for two weeks now.

I wonder if anyone has any suggestions.

***Susan F. Turner***
***RFD 1 Box 32***
***Macon, NC 27551***

## They fly with eagles

Since Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is very environmentally aware, and works toward a real balance with the environment, I thought your readers would enjoy this written meditation about our environment, the possible impact of our actions, and how we must not blindly perceive our responsibilities, thereby altering our own outcome.

I've been with Blue Ridge Electric for many years, and I have great respect for their concern of the environment. If all large corporations exercised such concern, our planet would be a much safer place for all life.

Hopefully you will accept the use of my letter as a gift, in return for the many enjoyable reading hours I've experienced with your wonderful magazine.

*Dorothy Brookshire*
*Lenior*

## Thanks for the memories

A special thanks to all those who responded to my request for the song "Reapers Are Needed" [Commentary, October 1996]. It brings back many memories.

*Lorena T. Hewett*
*Rockingham*

# Signs of Spring

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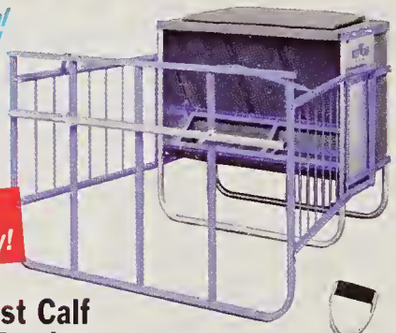

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*More meat than grocery store brands!*

21% Protein

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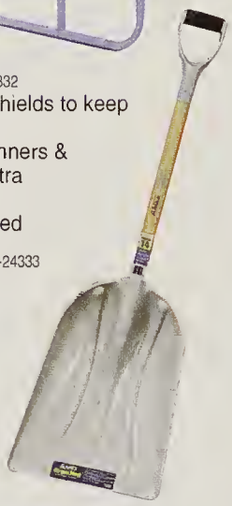

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- Economical hydraulic/ transmission fluid for farm tractor transmissions, hydraulic & wet brake systems

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Great Value!

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- Hip support, hand grip, adjustable shoulder strap
- Long lasting metal gears
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- 1 yr. over-the-counter warranty (ask for details)
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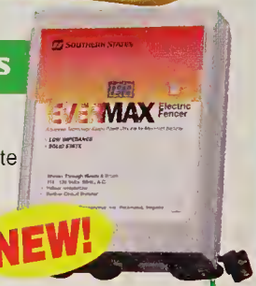


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- Charges 75 to 100 miles of fence

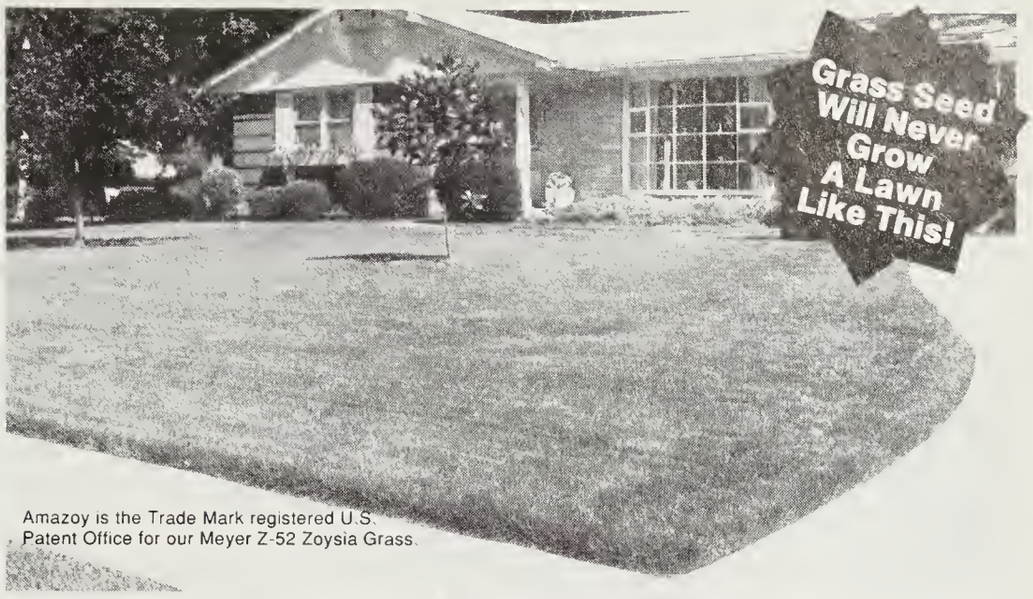
NEW!

DISCOVER NOVUS · MasterCard · VISA · Charge it!

FSY-7079 RHJ 1/97

Watering chores, water bills! Sweating behind a roaring mower! Spraying poison chemicals and digging weeds...

*...you can end such lawn drudgery—here's how!*




Amazoy is the Trade Mark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass.

**Mow your zoysia lawn once a month—or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.**

# ⑦ Ways Your Zoysia Grass Lawn Saves You Time, Work, and Money!

### ① CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING AS MUCH AS 2/3

Would you believe a lawn could be perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a zoysia lawn as "top lawn—nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed 2 times... When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

### ② ENDS RE-SEEDING NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Plug in our zoysia grass and you'll never have to spend money on grass seed again! Since you won't be buying seeds, you won't need to dig and rake—then hope the seeds take root before birds eat them or the next hard rain washes them away.

### ③ NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy in old lawn, new ground, whatever. Set one inch sq. plugs into holes in the soil 1 foot apart, checkerboard style. Plugs spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, weeds included. Easy instructions with your order. If you can put a cork into a bottle, you can plug in Amazoy.

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You can't beat Amazoy as the low cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, or to end erosion on slopes.

**Endless Supply of Plug Transplants**

Transplant plugs from established Amazoy as you desire—plugged area grows over to provide all the plugs you'll ever need.

**FREE! Exclusive Step-on Plugger with orders of 600 plugs or more.**

Starting your lawn is easy with this sturdy, 2-way plugger. Cuts away unwanted growth as it digs holes for plugs. Saves bending, time, work. Invaluable transplant tool.

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### ⑤ IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Plug-in zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter kill to 30° below zero. It just goes off its green color after killing frosts, begins regaining its green color as temps. in the spring are consistently warm. Of course, this varies with climate.

### ⑥ NO NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Since zoysia lawns resist insects AND diseases, you avoid the risk of exposing your family or pets to weedkillers and pesticide poisons. Plug in Amazoy and save the money, avoid the risks!

**Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass was perfected by U.S. Govt., released in cooperation with U.S. Golf Association as s superior grass.**

*Thrives from part shade to full sun.*

**Every Plug GUARANTEED TO GROW IN YOUR SOIL *No Ifs, Ands or Buts!***

**Read a guarantee no grass seed can match!**

Won't Winter Kill. Amazoy has survived temperatures to 30° below zero!

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*Any plug failing to grow in 45 days will be replaced FREE!* To insure maximum freshness and viability, plugs are shipped not cut all the way through. Before planting, finish the separation with shears or knife. Our guarantee and planting method are your assurance of lawn success backed by more than four decades of specialized lawn experience!

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at *earliest correct planting time in your area.*

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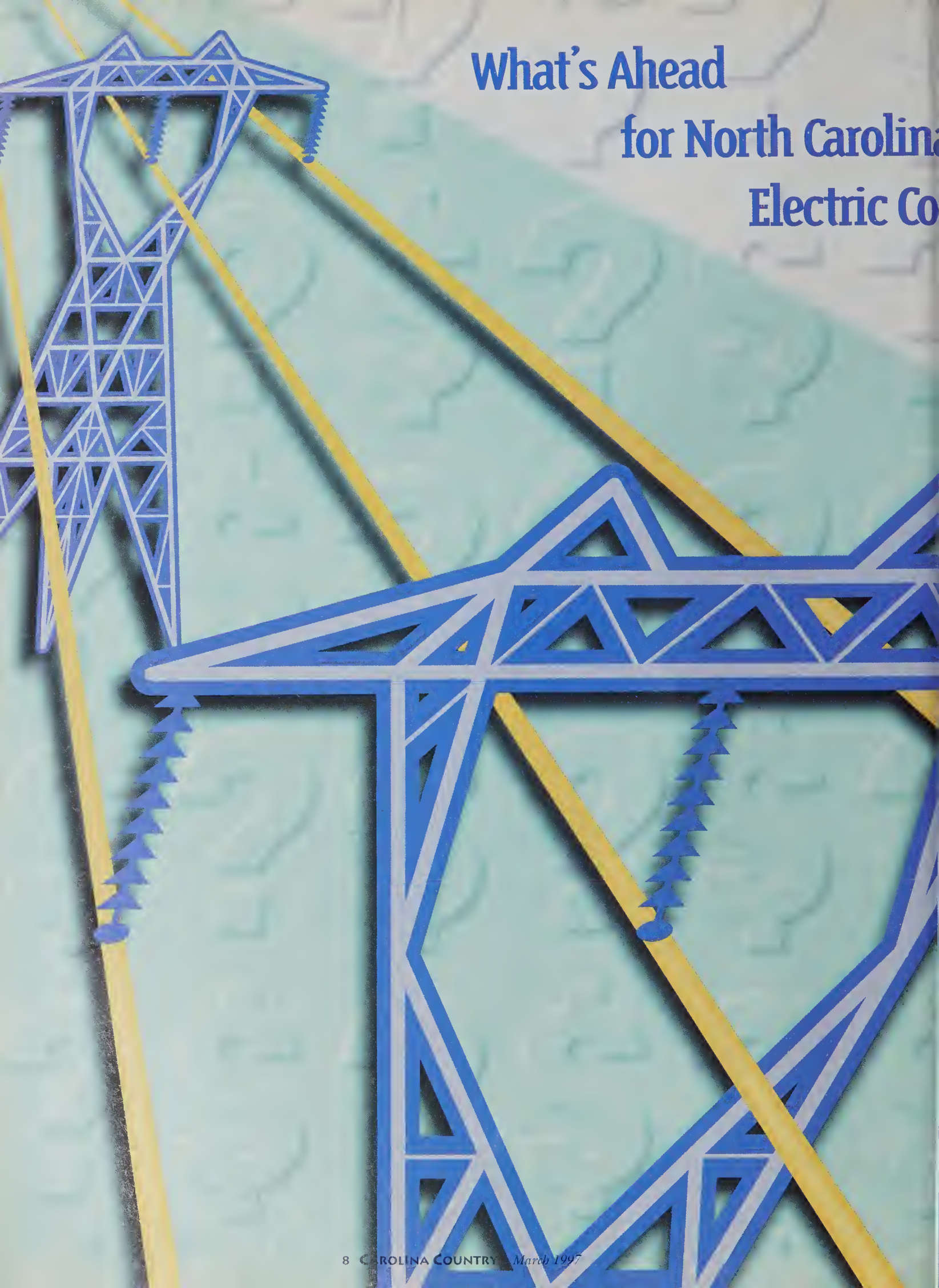
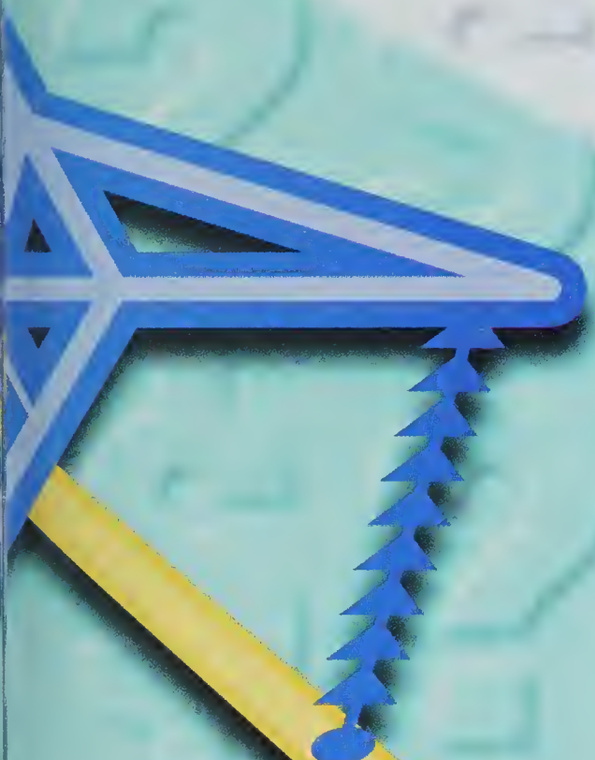


# What's Ahead for North Carolina Electric Co

eratives?

# Down The Line



The idea of letting customers pick their electric power supplier — just as consumers now pick their long-distance telephone service — is considered by some a cutting-edge concept in the electric utility industry.

It may sound great, but let the buyer beware.

The movement toward greater competition has been steered by several forces. One group is electricity customers — particularly heavy users — who are convinced that competition will lower their electric bills. Another is power marketing firms, including some conventional utilities, eager to sell power outside their traditional markets.

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At present, the electric utility that serves you is determined by where you live. In an openly competitive market, that would change.

For decades, the electric utility business has been a government-regulated industry. But it hasn't always been that way. Prior to the mid-1930s, power companies were able to charge whatever they wanted and serve only those areas that were profitable. That left rural areas in the dark. That's why rural people formed their own electric cooperatives, assisted at the time by federal loans.

The current move to restructure the electric industry began first with the passage of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), and further with the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which encourages competition in the wholesale energy market (the market in which utilities and other corporations produce and sell electricity for retail distribution to end users). Vigorous competition at the wholesale level ultimately benefits all customers, since wholesale power costs are a major portion of all customers' bills. The competitive playing field was widened in July 1996 when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued rules that opened access to the nation's transmission systems — a delivery method known as "wheeling," whereby power moves from a generation source to a user across a transmission system owned by a third party. Transmission lines can now be seen as an interstate highway network for the delivery of bulk electricity from producers to utility.

Although the Energy Policy Act specifically prohibits FERC from ordering "retail wheeling" directly to end customers, many industrial customers, independent power producers and brokers, and some utilities are campaigning for wheeling rights directly to the consumer.

Retail wheeling allows a customer to contract for a supply of electricity from a supplier, and the electricity flows through a transmission grid to local distribution systems, which are connected to customers. The distribution system's owner— usually the customer's existing utility — may not supply the electricity itself, but it does supply use of the system and other services, such as maintenance and metering.

Proponents of retail wheeling claim that by providing opportunity for customers to choose different suppliers, the prices paid for electric service will decrease and service offerings will increase. Many of these proponents are large industrial users with facilities in several locations across the country that pay utility rates that vary significantly from region to region. They say that large industrial customers must be able to shop for energy, just as they do for raw materials. They claim that lower power costs could keep troubled businesses afloat and help their international competitiveness.

While retail wheeling would give large customers greater leverage to extract lower rates, utilities will continue to have fixed investments (known in the industry as "stranded investment"). That's because for many years government regulations required utilities to forecast future power needs for their customers and build adequate generation, transmission and distribution facilities to meet those needs. The utilities meanwhile counted on customers remaining to help pay for those long-term investments. These "stranded" fixed costs may be increasingly borne by smaller users, such as residential consumers, as large industrial customers shop the market and switch power suppliers, effectively abandoning utility facilities that in some cases were built to handle their load. Some utility analysts argue that only larger customers would reap the benefits of retail competition, and that smaller customers eventually would pay higher prices.

Another scenario envisions that retail wheeling will level rates across the U.S., and that customers with relatively low rates will pay more, while those with higher rates will pay less. In this scenario, consumers in the Southeast will lose, because at present rates

here are lower than those in the Northeast and West Coast.

## States consider making their own rules

Virtually every state in the nation is reviewing competitive changes in the electric industry.

North Carolina's government officials are considering ways to gain a full understanding of the issues involved.

Virginia likewise will spend much of 1997 collecting and reviewing data on restructuring.

Pennsylvania, on the other hand, passed legislation in late 1996 that requires competition in the generation sector of the industry and calls for phasing in full competition within three years.

California, in September 1996, adopted a timeline for opening the retail marketplace to competition for all consumers during the next five years, though it leaves in place the state-regulated system of transmission and distribution of electric power.

New Hampshire, in May 1996, began a two-year test, with 17,000 business and residential customers — about 3 percent of the state's electric consumption — choosing their electric supplier. An array of choices became available — complete with plenty of marketing hype — as some 30 companies compete for customers.

At the national level, a bill introduced in July 1996 by Congressman Dan Schaefer (R–Colorado) would have imposed utility retail competition in states which do not set up their own restructuring. Among the provisions of Schaefer's "Electric Consumers' Power to Choose" was one that allows states to implement their own retail wheeling regulations by the year 2000. But if a state does not act by that time, FERC would mandate retail wheeling. The Schaefer bill is expected to reappear in 1997.

Another bill likely to be introduced by Congressman Tom DeLay (R-Texas) would give all electricity customers a choice of providers by January 1998.

## Issues that concern electric cooperatives

In the ongoing discussion of retail competition, electric cooperative officials consistently raise the issue of equal treatment to all consumers. Otherwise, it's possible that the benefits of true competition — the ability to choose— would exist only for customers with the size or savvy to secure good contracts in profitable areas.

Electric cooperatives were formed because other utilities weren't interested in extending their electric lines to less populated — and, therefore, less profitable — areas. Although electricity is no longer a luxury, some customers nonetheless may not be deemed worth serving. Co-op representatives nationally and locally are insisting that no consumer be left in the dark or otherwise left with limited choices.

Also, true competition would make it difficult for a utility to forecast which customers would remain and how much electricity would be needed at any point in the future. This would create more risk for utilities, perhaps causing lending institutions to raise their cost of money, making operations and maintenance projects more expensive. In the end, the consumer would have to pay for those increases.

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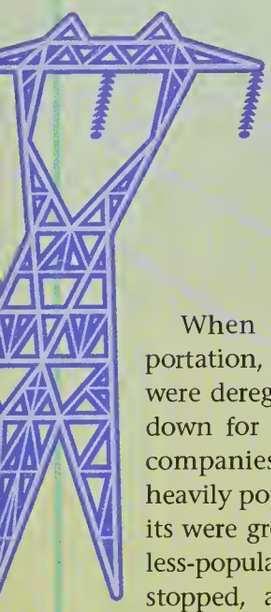

Other areas of concern include the actual logistics of wheeling power, the specter of duplicated services and facilities, the possibility of jeopardizing safety anywhere along the line, and the confusion inherent in switching providers at whim.

When telephone, airline, transportation, banking and gas companies were deregulated, costs generally went down for customers. However, as the companies began concentrating on heavily populated areas — where profits were greater — quality of service in less-populated areas suffered or services stopped, and prices went up rather than down.

The airline industry is an example of one where a more competitive market lowered prices for heavily traveled routes, but saw rates rise in slower markets and service decline or disappear.

Competition in the long-distance telephone industry has lowered the cost of long-distance calls, but local rates — which had been subsidized by long-distance calls — have climbed steadily.

The natural gas industry, which also has been deregulated, has similarly seen lower rates for large, industrial users and higher rates for homeowners.

And electric utilities are far more complex than those industries.

What remains clear is that some form of competition will evolve among electric utilities, and it won't happen overnight.Policymakers understand that investments in power plants and lines are very costly and are recouped over a long period of time.

The nation's electric cooperatives — which serve 30 million people in 46 states and have $60 billion in assets — are a central participant in the move toward restructuring the industry. They have adopted a set of principles to guide the discussion, including

- *All classes of consumers should be treated equitably.*
- *Stranded costs should not be borne by those who choose to stay with their current supplier.*
- *All energy providers — not just utilities — should be subject to the same standards.*
- *All consumers should have access to electric service.*
- *Safety and reliability must not be jeopardized.*
- *Exclusive delivery service areas should be maintained.*

The bottom line principle guiding cooperatives, including North Carolina's cooperatives, is that the interests of their consumer-members be served at all turns.

Consumers, especially individual families and their communities, can play a crucial role in the shaping of a newly organized electric utility industry. To protect their interests, citizens must stay informed of developments and express their opinions to legislators, policymakers, community leaders, newspapers and their utility directors.

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*Contributors to this article were Michael E.C. Gery (editor of Carolina Country), Pam Blair (a writer with Ruralite Services, Inc.), Alan Edwards (of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association), and Nelle Hotchkiss (manager of Government and Public Relations with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives).*

## How would a restructured electric industry work?

Restructuring is often viewed as deregulation, but deregulation is actually a misnomer. Federally mandated wheeling could increase government regulation at the distribution and transmission levels. Only the generation level would potentially have less regulation.

How would a restructured electric industry work?

Power generation, transmission and distribution functions would become separate from one another.

Generators — which would include utilities, independent power producers and power marketers — would work independently to produce or acquire power, and then sell it to buyers.

The transmission system would support that competition by charging all users of the system a set fee for transporting, or "wheeling," power to distribution lines.

When a transmission company also generates or distributes electricity, an independent system operator (ISO) would be responsible for running a fair and reliable transmission system.

Another option is to form a "poolco" — an independent entity that would handle both generation and transmission on a regional basis. It would determine prices based on bids.

Distribution companies would be obligated to provide a connection to everyone at a set price. Distribution companies would include many parts, all separated — or "unbundled" — from one another. Maintenance of the wires and poles could be separate from delivery of power, meter reading and other services.

As a result of that new structure, a customer's bill would likely show line-item charges for production of the energy and related costs, a wheeling charge for transmission of the energy, a facilities and line charge for distribution of the energy and fees for "energy services" — everything from meter reading and billing to Internet access.

## Contacts

For more information about changes facing North Carolina's electric utility industry, contact your electric cooperative, or:

***North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives***, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (800) 662-8835. Chris Heagarty (ext. 391) legislative contact, or Jane Pritchard (ext.312) media contact.

***North Carolina Utilities Commission*** (has jurisdiction over rates and service of investor-owned utilities, licensing of all new generating plants, construction of electric transmission facilities that are 161 kilovolts and bigger, and coordination of resource plans of all the state's electric utilities), P.O. Box 29510, Raleigh, NC 27626. Phone: (919) 733-2267 (public staff).

***North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority*** (appointed by the governor to review electric cooperatives' federal loan applications and to review consumer comments), 430 North Salisbury St., Dobbs Building, Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-7513.

## Glossary of utility terms

Here are some terms you'll hear more often as utility restructuring progresses.

**Bulk power:** Large amounts of electricity transported over high-voltage transmission lines.

**Capacity:** The amount of electricity for which a generating plant or transmission system is rated.

**Cogeneration:** Production of heat and electricity at the same time from the same source.

**Commercial customer:** Non-manufacturing business customer.

**Demand:** The amount of power a customer takes at a given moment.

**Distribution system:** Local delivery system that gets electricity to customers. The local electric co-op is a distribution system.

**Energy Policy Act:** Federal legislation passed in 1992 to, among other things, increase competition in the wholesale market.

**FERC:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent government agency that oversees America's electric utilities, natural gas industry, non-federal hydroelectric projects and oil pipeline transportation system. Its primary responsibility is ensuring that consumers have adequate supplies of electricity and natural gas at reasonable rates.

**Generation:** Producing electricity by power plant or machine.

**Industrial customer:** Business customer engaged in manufacturing.

**Interruptible rate:** Lower rate offered to customers willing to have electric service interrupted, saving the utility from providing more expensive power.

**Price cap regulation:** Placing a ceiling on the price utilities can charge for services, but not on their profit.

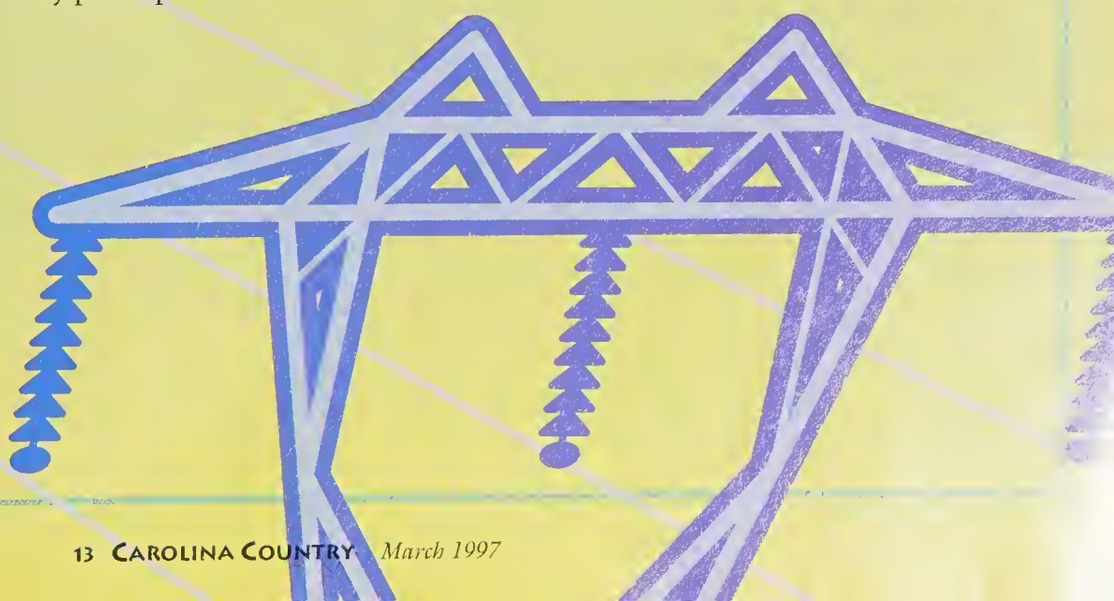
**Reciprocity:** Giving utilities equal access to the markets of their competitors.

**Stranded investment:** Investments made under the current regulatory environment that may become uneconomic in a competitive market.

**Transmission system:** The high-voltage lines that carry electricity from the power plant to the distribution system.

**Unbundling:** The separation of generation, transmission and distribution services and other programs. Customers would receive and pay only for the services they use. This could include the electricity itself, delivery of it, meter reading, billing and assorted energy services.

**Wheeling:** Delivering electricity from a power supplier through the transmission system of another party.



# The North Carolina Congressional Delegation
## *A Directory*

## Senate

*Senator Jesse Helms*
403 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301
**Tel:** 202-224-6342
**Fax:** 202-228-1339
**e-mail:**
jesse_helms@helms.senate.gov

*Senator Lauch Faircloth*
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3305
**Tel:** 202-224-3154
**Fax:** 202-224-7406
**e-mail:**
senator@faircloth.senate.gov

## The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414

## House of Representatives

### First District
*Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton*
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
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**Tel:** 202-225-3101
**Fax:** 202-225-3354
**e-mail:** eclayton@hr.house.gov

### Second District
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**Fax:** 202-225-5662
(e-mail address pending)

### Third District
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Washington, DC 20515-3303
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**Fax:** 202-225-3286
(no e-mail address available)

### Fourth District
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**Tel:** 202-225-1784
**Fax:** 202-225-2014
**e-mail:** david.price@mail.house.gov

### Fifth District
*Congressman Richard Burr*
1513 Longworth House Office Building
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**Tel:** 202-225-2071
**Fax:** 202-225-2995
**e-mail:**
richard.burrNC05@mail.house.gov

### Sixth District
*Congressman Howard Coble*
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3306
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**Fax:** 202-225-8611
**e-mail:** coblenc6@hr.house.gov

### Seventh District
*Congressman Mike McIntyre*
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Washington, DC 20515-3307
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**Fax:** 202-225-5773
**e-mail:** Congressman.Mike.McIntyre
@mail.house.gov

### Eighth District
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2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3308
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(no e-mail address available)

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230 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3309
**Tel:** 202-225-1976
**Fax:** 202-225-3389
**e-mail:** myrick@hr.house.gov

### Tenth District
*Congressman T. Cass Ballenger*
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
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**Tel:** 202-225-2576
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### Eleventh District
*Congressman Charles H. Taylor*
231 Cannon House Office Building
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**Fax:** 202-225-0519
**e-mail:** chtaylor@hr.house.gov

### Twelfth District
*Congressman Melvin L. Watt*
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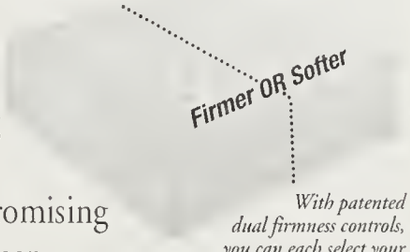


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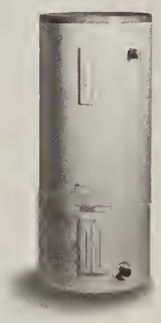

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*Mrs. Dean Sasser*
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**Gentleman and lobbyist extraordinaire James Lee Burney retires from the electric cooperative program**

*James Lee Burney (right) managed the 1972 gubernatorial campaign of Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles (center), shown with campaign associate Thad Woodard.*

*In the early 1960s, he worked on Gov. Terry Sanford's anti-poverty program.*

# James Lee Burney leaves the lobby

**by Owen Bishop**

*Throughout his career, James Lee Burney has worked hard for the people of North Carolina and the electric cooperatives that serve them. He never lost sight of what mattered most to the people of our state. I am proud of all he has accomplished for the people of North Carolina.*

***James B. Hunt Jr.***
*Governor of North Carolina*

Applause echoed through the hotel ballroom as leaders of North Carolina's electric cooperatives rose in tribute to the man behind the lectern: James Lee Burney, who has directed the co-ops' government relations efforts for nearly a quarter of a century.

The movers and shakers of the state's rural electric program, assembled for their annual meeting in Raleigh last April, rose to recognize Burney for his career with the cooperatives. They had heard about his plans to retire in January, 1997.

Burney was unprepared for this spontaneous outpouring of adulation. He shifted uneasily from one foot to the other.

It was clear to me that this audience was offering far more than polite applause. It was the kind of response you might expect as the curtain falls on the final performance of a long-running Broadway play.

The veteran lobbyist, who looks too young to retire, would never have mentioned his plans at the meeting if he'd been left to his own devices. But once the word was out, he stepped forward to graciously acknowledge the tribute with a smile, a nod and a quick wave.

Then he headed for the door, because he was scheduled to attend an important session at the General Assembly. "This isn't my preference," he said with a grin, "But the legislators somehow tend to schedule their meetings when it works best for *them*!"

As James Lee rushed away to once again protect the co-op member's interests in the halls of government, I thought he didn't mind making an early exit, avoiding further fuss about his retirement plans. He had always been more at home away from the spotlight, quietly roaming those halls, using charm and grace to win support for the North Carolina rural electric program.

His low key, congenial approach never varied, whether he was discussing the merits of pending legislation with powerful elected officials or questioning bureaucrats about regulations that might affect the co-ops. In both arenas, he relied on meticulous research and gentlemanly persuasion to present his case. Even when the goal

*I have long valued James Lee's advice. He has done an outstanding job representing the interests of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. His shoes will be hard to fill.*

***Dennis Wicker***
*Lt. Governor of North Carolina*

*James Lee Burney's energetic application of his extensive knowledge greatly contributed to the success of all North Carolina electric co-ops. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to our cause have proven to be in the highest tradition of his profession.*

***J. Dean Carpenter***
*Director, Rutherford EMC and Chairman of REAP*

*James Lee testifies at a regional hearing on federal farm legislation as N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham (with cigar) listens.*

*James Lee Burney has been an effective, articulate and eloquent spokesman for the electric cooperatives. His knowledge of the legislative process here in Washington and his ability to communicate in a persuasive manner with officials in various administrations and lawmakers will be missed.*

***Wally Rustad***
*Director of Government Relations, NRECA*

proved elusive, he emerged from the process with the trust and respect of those he had faced.

I can't pretend that these images of the man are objective, because James Lee Burney has been my friend and colleague for almost 24 years. He had been part of the rural electric program for about six months when I joined the co-ops' state office in November 1973. We had both grown up in eastern North Carolina and went through the state university system for an education. He earned an engineering degree at NCSU while I studied journalism in Chapel Hill.

We soon found an easy rapport, which grew out of a common interest in politics and a shared devotion to the Democratic Party. James Lee had direct ties to the party, having served as executive director of the North Carolina Young Democrats. Later, he served on the staff of the North Carolina Fund, an anti-poverty agency established by Gov. Terry Sanford. He'd signed on with the co-ops after managing the unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign of the late Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles.

I, too, had been an avid supporter of Sanford and his anti-poverty efforts, and I was deeply disappointed when Bowles wasn't elected governor in 1972.

Burney enjoyed telling political "war stories" from his past and I became an eager audience, especially the behind-the-scenes glimpses of the Bowles campaign. More than 20 years later, I was still listening intently when he described his visits to the White House as a guest of Skipper Bowles' son, Erskine, who was then serving as President Clinton's deputy chief of staff.

James Lee has maintained his link with the Bowles family through the years, and the connection stirred speculation after Erskine was tapped to serve as White House chief of staff in Clinton's second administration. Many of Burney's friends and associates were convinced that he would close out his career with the co-ops and then take an assignment inside the Beltway working with Erskine.

"People kept calling me about that," he said, as we discussed the rumors a few weeks before he officially retired on Jan. 2, 1997. "I assured everybody that I'm just not interested in a job in Washington. I have too much else I want to do."

In looking back over his career, he says the co-ops made his job easy because of the strong grassroots support they can command among their members. Although he has played a key role in rallying those forces as needed, he says the co-ops' record of success on behalf of consumer-members is due to outstanding teamwork by people from local communities throughout the state.

"We've never suffered a defeat in the General Assembly, because we were careful about what we asked for and

*continued on page 20*

*He is an innovative and positive leader. He has made substantial contributions to North Carolina, from efforts to combat poverty and improve housing to developing industry — and even improve foreign relations.*

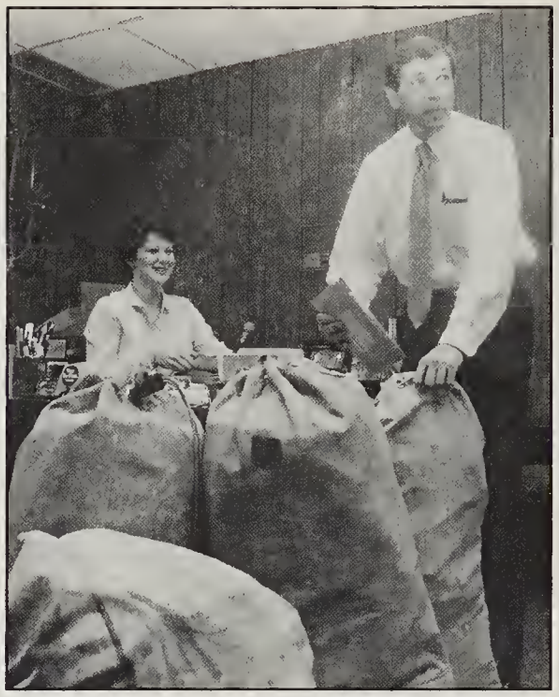
***Terry Sanford***
*Former governor of North Carolina and former U.S. senator*

*When I first went to work for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in 1978, James Lee Burney was introduced to me as the "Godfather" of the political scene in North Carolina. I soon learned that it was an appropriate title. He has been an invaluable member of the co-op team in Washington as well as Raleigh.*

***Carolyn Herr Watts***
*Vice President of Corporate Relations, NCEMC*

*James Lee Burney has been a respected figure in North Carolina politics for many years, and that respect has rubbed off on the electric cooperatives. He has played a key role in advancing the rural electric program in this state and on the national level.*

***Chuck Terrill***
*Executive Vice President, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.*



*James Lee as a letter carrier. When co-op members state an opinion, politicians listen.*

*continued from page 19*

about who was doing the asking," he said. "The co-ops have always had highly-motivated, politically-astute people who were willing to help out. That's the secret of our success."

This same spirit, says James Lee, has contributed to the growth of the Rural Electrification Action Program (the statewide political action organization) and the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, a national political action committee established by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. REAP was launched in 1970 as a mechanism through which North Carolina co-op employees and directors could provide personal financial support for political candidates. ACRE came along a few years later with the same mission and a national scope. Both organizations reached record memberships in 1996.

Looking ahead, James Lee says consumers must become more vocal in presenting their points of view to government officials, "to assure that the consuming public's best interests are being served" as pressure mounts to change the structure of electric utilities

"For co-op consumer-members," he said, "this means they'll need to keep strong leaders on co-op boards — people who are actively involved in their communities and who don't mind being vocal."

James Lee's immediate plans for retirement include studying gourmet cooking in Florence, Italy, and catching up on various personal projects at home in Raleigh and on his family's farm in Bladen County. But he won't rule out further involvement in politics.

"I still enjoy it, and if an attractive candidate for governor or senator comes along in the next few years, I just might jump right back in the middle of it!"

*He has always been absolutely loyal and dependable, and he knows everybody of any consequence in politics.*

***J. C. Brown Jr.***
*Former manager, North Carolina co-ops' state office*

# How can you replace James Lee Burney?

James Lee Burney is a tough act to follow, as they say, but the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives has government relations people in place and at work on behalf of co-op consumer-members statewide.

**Carolyn Herr Watts**, NCAEC's vice president of Corporate Relations since February 1996, has considerable experience in government relations with the electric cooperative program.. Before joining North Carolina's cooperatives, she was acting assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, and prior to that worked 16 years in legislative affairs with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Washington, D.C., where she was legislative director.

**Nelle Hotchkiss** has been NCAEC's manager of Government and Public Relations since November 1996. She oversees lobbying efforts on state and national issues and corporate communications activities of the association. Hotchkiss has worked with the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Virginia attorney general's office and most recently headed the government relations staff at the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. She is a native of Richmond and graduate of Skidmore College.

**J. Christopher Heagarty** is NCAEC's director of State Government Relations, representing the co-ops before state agencies and in the General Assembly. He had been working with James Lee Burney as the cooperatives' legislative specialist since 1992. Heagarty is a graduate of the N.C. Institute of Political Research and NCSU. The Raleigh native is a member of the board of directors of the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership.

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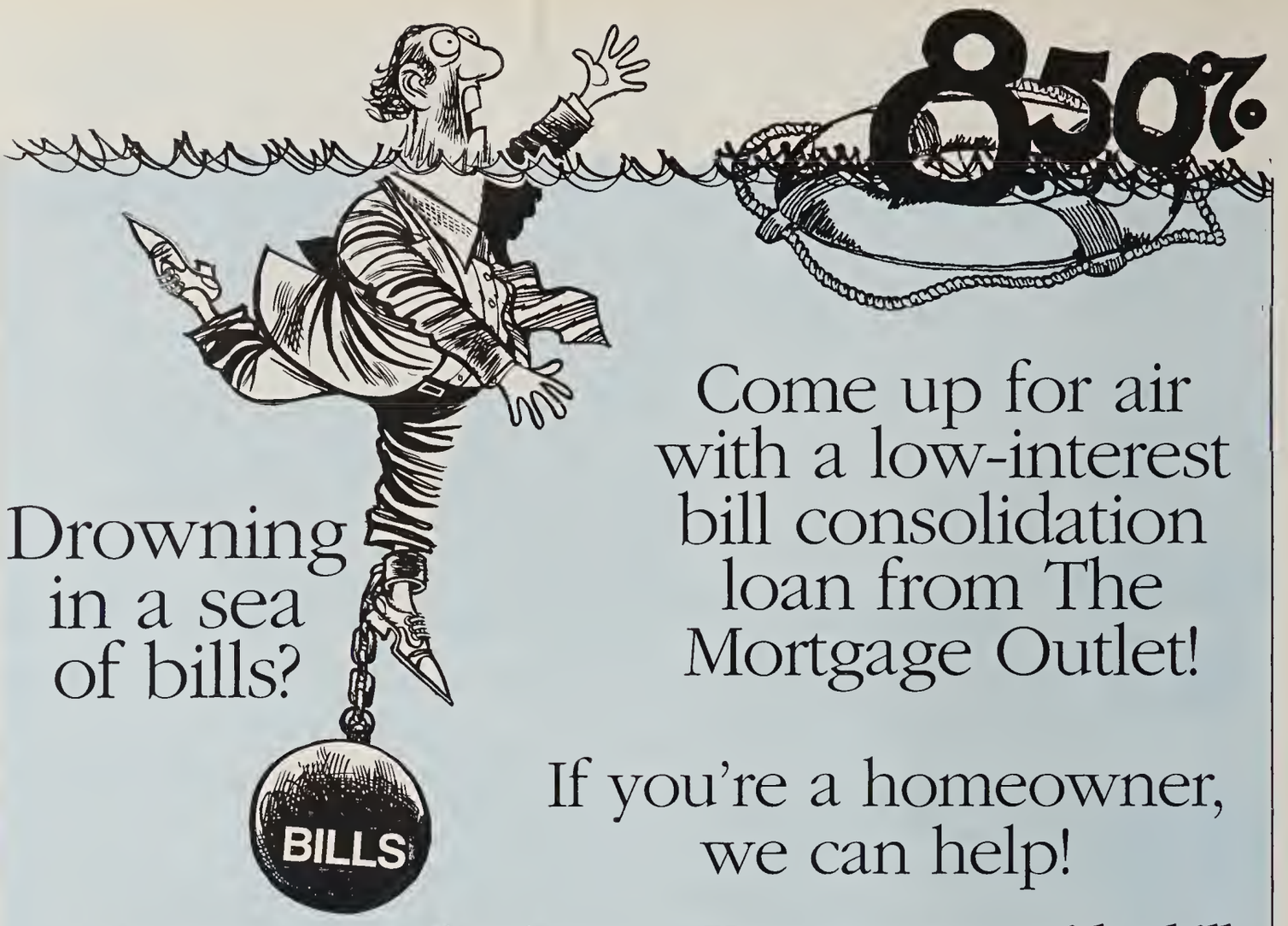


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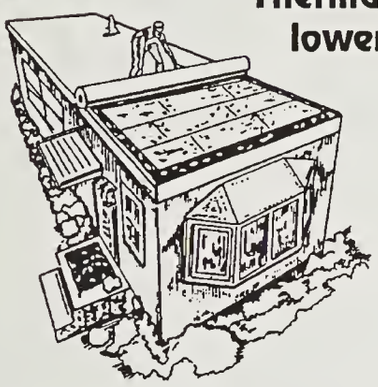

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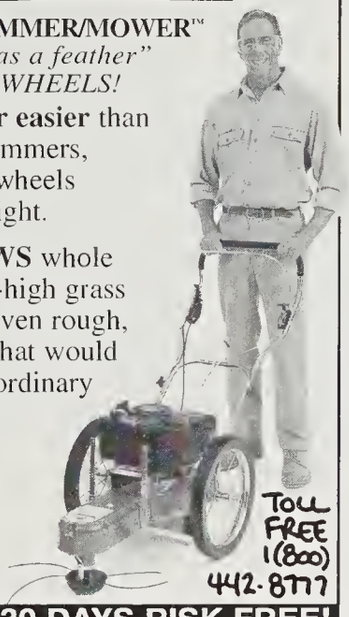


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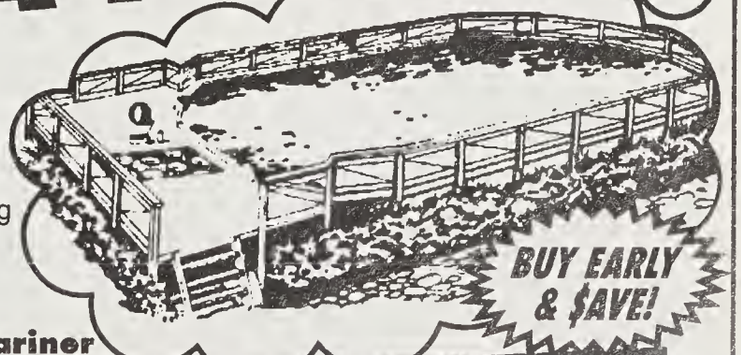

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# TREE TALK

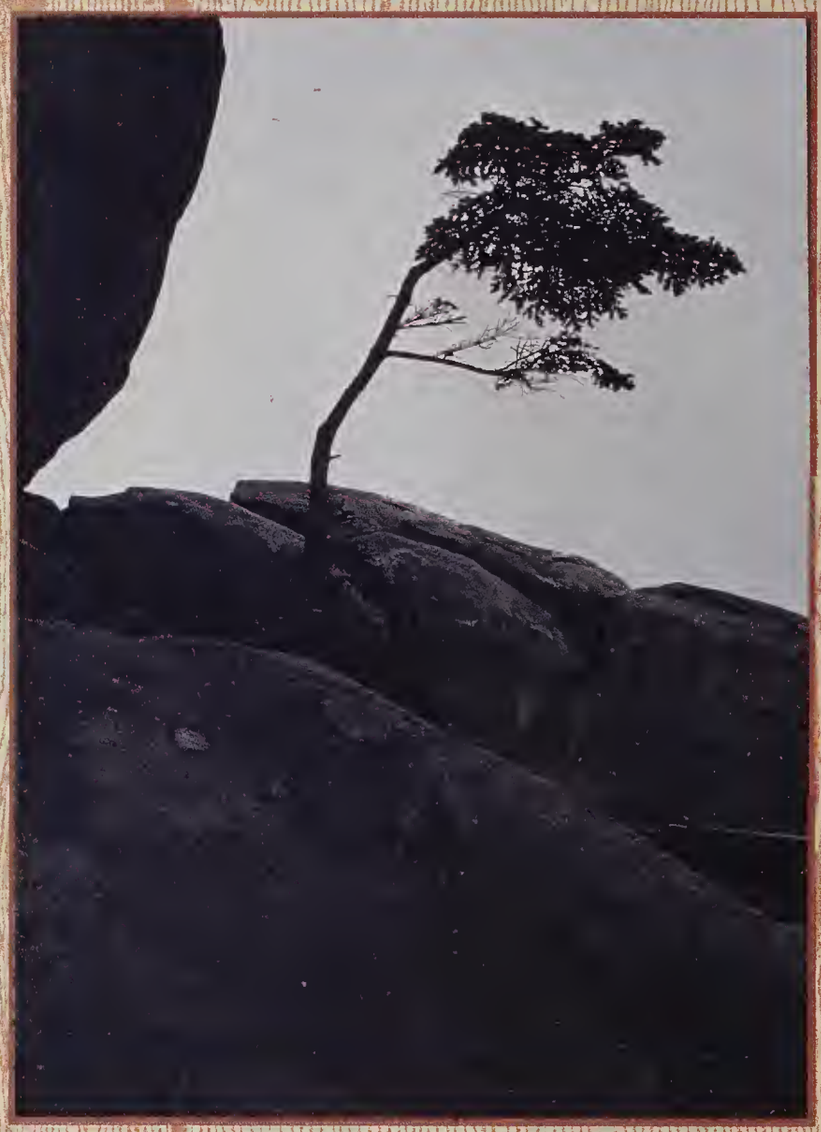
Text and photography by William D. Weekes

Trees have tales to tell to those who will "listen" with an open eye and imagination. Stumps, boles and burls, dead or alive, twisted by fate, thrashed by thunderbolt, maimed by chainsaw, or defoliated by disease or insects — trees can provoke our memory and prompt recognition of some human body language. Ensnarled limbs become tangled arms. Crooked trunks look like physiques frozen in time.

A single tree, or part of a tree, may dictate some message, perhaps as many messages as there are beholders. Some portray a human posture. Some evoke a quotation or an attitude. Some outline an animal, vegetable or mineral. Some resemble a group of people or a state of being.

Like people, trees possess individual character. Here are my impressions of trees I've known, most of them in western North Carolina. — *William Weekes*

**Can Opener,** *Crocker Gap*



**Tough neighborhood,** *Clingman's Dome*

**Ballerina,** *Blue Ridge Parkway*

**"Coffee, Tea or Milk?"**

*Henry County, Virginia*

**Octopus,** *Big Butt Trail*

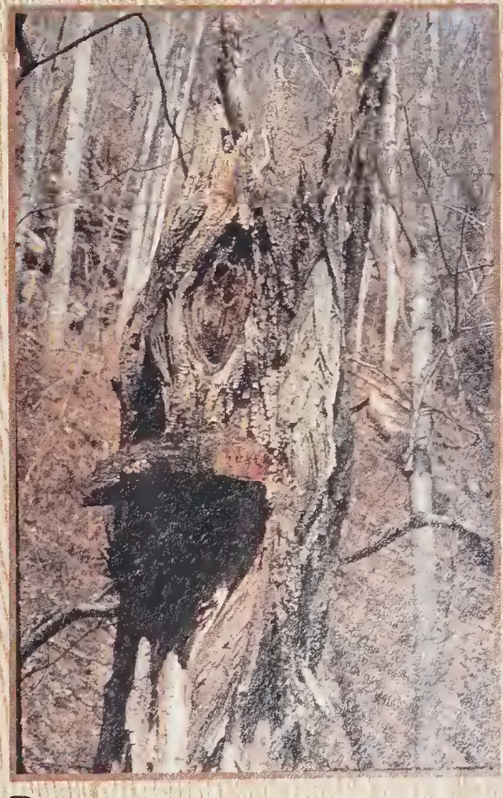
**Misinformation,** *Blue Ridge Parkway*

**Rakish,** *Linville Falls*

**Duck Stump**
*Deep Gap Trail*

**Get a Grip on Yourself**
*Tanawha Trail*

**"I Simply Must Go on a Diet"**
*Spartanburg County, S.C.*



**Batman**
*Craven Gap*

# Books by Peggy Howe

## Fishin' Tips

*Bud Ruddle, 55 pages*

A down-home fisherman presents "Fishin' Tips" for novice and experienced fishermen alike. In several short articles he offers firsthand advice from bait and equipment selection to the best recipe for a campfire fish fry.

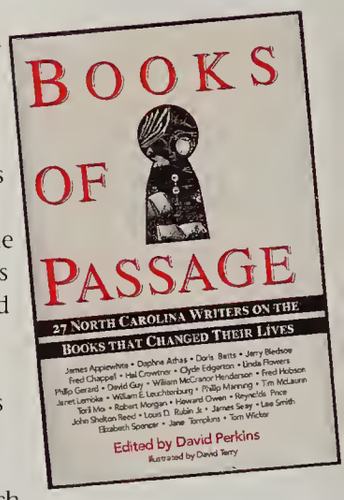
As a lifelong avid fisherman, Curtis "Bud" Ruddle increases our knowledge of one of the world's favorite pastimes while entertaining us with humorous anecdotes and commentary. In more than 50 articles he captures the "pure enjoyment of fishing." He includes advice on knot tying, lure selection and presentation, and fish locations.

A Pennsylvania native, Ruddle retired to North Carolina's Sandhills after a 38-year career with a metropolitan utility company. Currently he writes a monthly column, "Fishin' Tips," for his local newspaper, and includes some in the book.

Available for $10.95 (softcover) from bookstores or Pentland Press, 5124 Bur Oak Circle, Raleigh, NC 27612. Phone: (800) 948-2786 and (800) 628-0903. (Add $3.00 for shipping and handling.)

## Books of Passage

*David Perkins, 204 pages*




The vast talents of 27 North Carolina authors are bought together in David Perkins' new "Books of Passage." Each author writes about the one book that changed his life. The enlightening collection includes essays on everything from Tolstoy's "War and Peace" from Robert Morgan, to Julia Child's "The Art of French Cooking" from Fred Chappel, and Robert Pirsig's "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" from Jane Tompkins.

David Terry's drawn portraits of each writer illustrate the book.

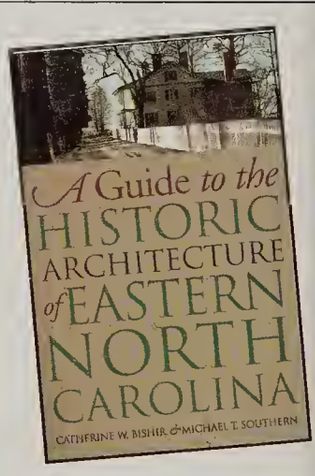
Among familiar authors presented are Doris Betts, Jerry Bledsoe, Clyde Edgerton, Philip Gerard, Reynolds Price, Lee Smith and Tom Wicker.

David Perkins is the book editor for the Raleigh News & Observer.

Available for $22.95 (hardcover) at bookstores or Down Home Press, PO Box 4126 Asheboro, NC 27204. Phone: (910) 672-6889. If ordering by mail add $2 for shipping; and North Carolina residents also add $1.38 sales tax.

## A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina

*Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, 458 pages*




Eastern North Carolina boasts some of the oldest and most distinctive architecture in the state from colonial churches to antebellum lighthouses of the late 19th century.

More recent history of this predominantly agricultural region includes landscapes of farmsteads, country churches, factories, tobacco barns, quiet maritime villages and market towns. This new book covers the area.

Designed as a field guide for traveler, resident, student and preservationist, and organized by county, the guide is the first of three covering the entire state to be published in coming years.

Featuring more than 400 photographs and 30 local maps, this guide introduces readers to more than 1,700 buildings in 41 counties from the coast to I-95.

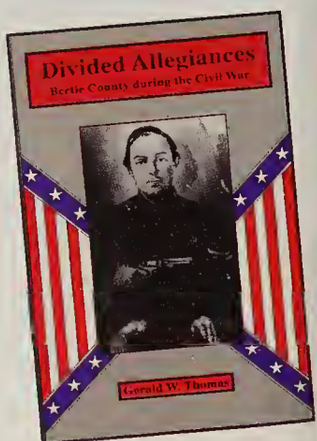
Authors offer precise directions, plus preface, introduction, glossary, bibliography, information sources and index.

Award winning author Catherine Bishir is Architectural Survey Coordinator, and Michael Southern is Research Historian, both at the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources.

Available for $19.95 (softcover) or $35 (hardcover) from bookstores or from the University of North Carolina Press, PO Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288. Phone: (800) 848-6224.

## Divided Allegiances: Bertie County During the Civil War

*Gerald W. Thomas, 206 pages*



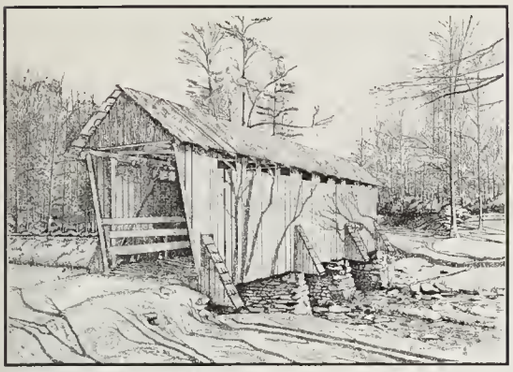

As North Carolina joined the Confederacy after the outbreak of the Civil War, many citizens remained loyal to the Union and joined its military forces. Others cast their lot with the Confederacy to march with the men in gray.

One area in which neighbors had divided allegiances was Bertie County which became a no-man's land of mixed loyalties and military and civil conflict. In his new book, Gerald W. Thomas identifies [illegible] each side and graphically describes battles and social upheavals in this eastern North Carolina county.

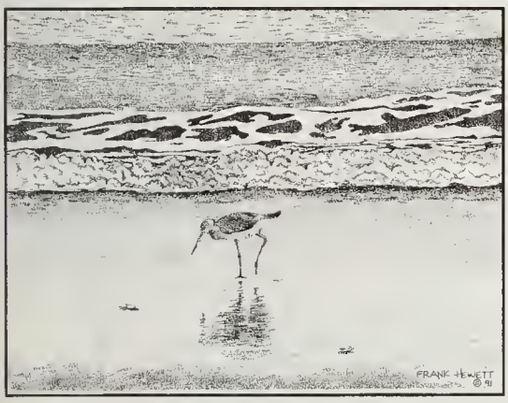
Black and white photographs, maps, notes, graphs, appendixes, bibliography and index add to the text.

Thomas, a Bertie County native, is an East Carolina University graduate.

Available for $11 plus $3 postage from Historical Publications, N. C. Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2807.



*Pisgah Covered Bridge*




*Sandpiper*

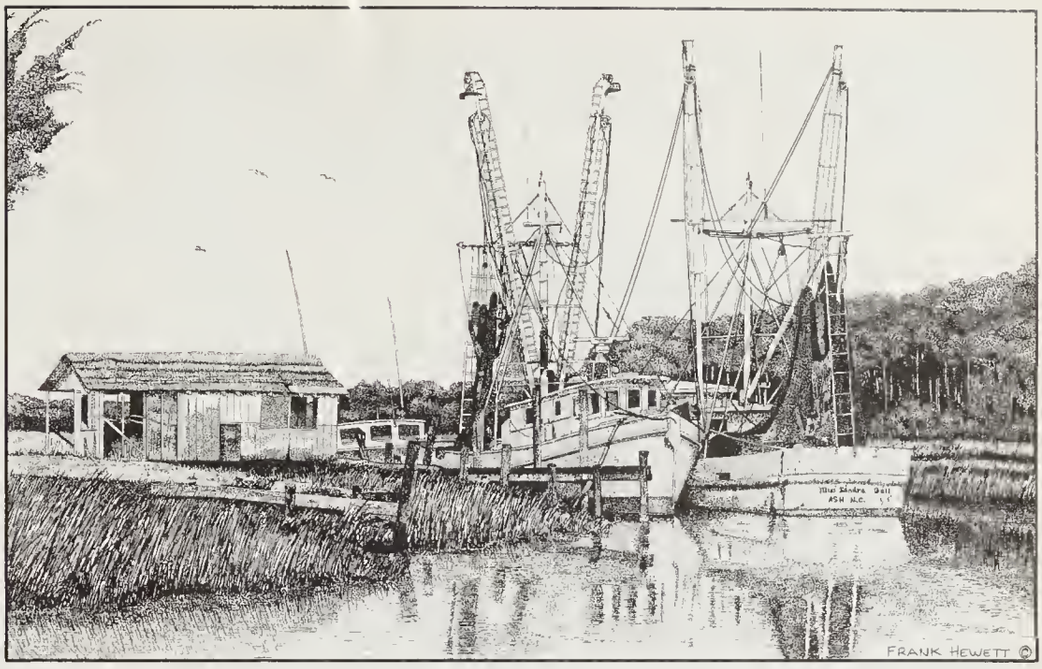
# Pen and ink pointillism drawings by Frank Hewett

Frank Hewett employs the technique of pointillism to produce pen and ink drawings of North Carolina scenes. Pointillism is the process of "arranging dots on a surface to create an effect of blending and luminosity," says the artist.

Born and raised in Brunswick County (his father, Frank Hewett, was a lineman for Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation in Shallotte), Hewett is inspired by his appreciation for family and friends, as well as North Carolina's heritage, environment and wildlife. He is working on a series of North Carolina lighthouses and will have completed eight when he begins his spring exhibitions this year.

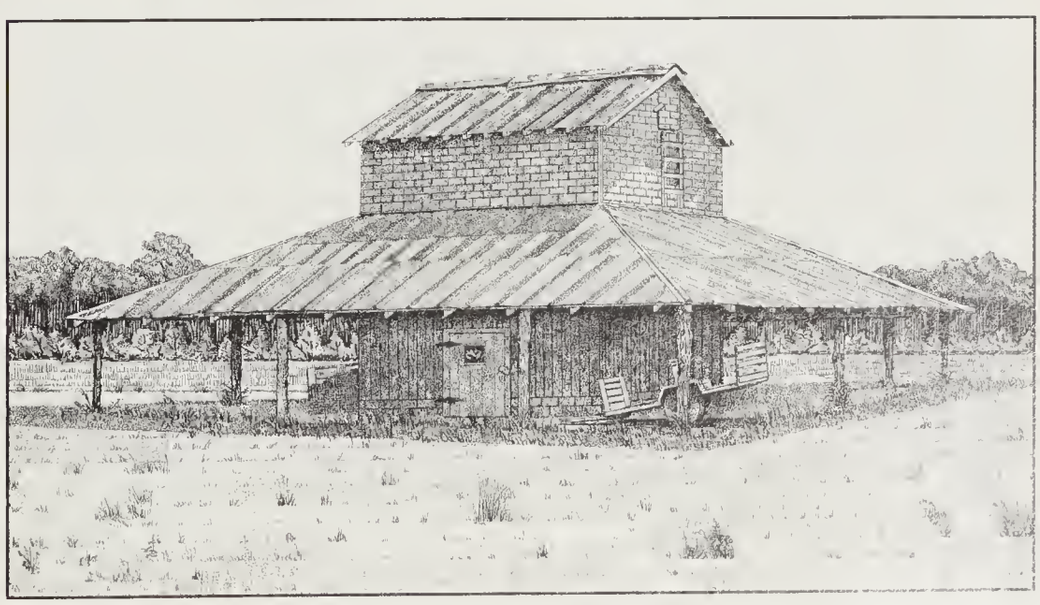
The artist works from his studio in Raleigh and produces a line of limited edition art prints on 100 percent cotton fiber paper, ranging in price from $5 for half-sizes to $20, plus shipping.

For more information about those shown here, and to receive a catalog showing 23 drawings, contact Frank Hewett at P.O. Box 26044, Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (800) 484-8606, code 0921.




*Old Bait and Tackle Shop*

*Oak Island Lighthouse*



*Country Barn*

## Local egg gets to the White House

For the fourth year in a row, President Bill Clinton has requested that each state egg organization enlist an artist to decorate a chicken egg, highlighting special features of their state. These eggs will be on display in the White House for six weeks beginning in March and lasting through the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on Easter Monday.

North Carolina's egg, created by Nellie Whitener, shows carved out clusters of dogwood blossoms, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and a cardinal. All images on the egg appear in their authentic color.

Whitener's talent was spotted by the director of the North Carolina Egg Association when she won the 1996 Paraworld Cup Custom Hand Engraving Competition in Orem, Utah. She has been intricately carving emu, ostrich and goose eggs as a hobby but never tried chicken eggs until now. Nellie Whitener lives in Farmington and is a member of Crescent Electric Membership Corporation.

For more information about egg decorating, contact Jan Dorsey, N.C. Egg Association, 1150 SE Maynard Rd., Suite 130, Cary, NC 27511. Phone: (919) 319-1195.

## Civil War reenactment group seeks applications

One of the nation's largest Civil War reenactment units is accepting applications. The 26th Regiment NC Troops Reactivated participates in battle reenactments, living history programs at historic parks, and movie and TV productions to remember North Carolina's Confederate soldiers. For more information and applications, contact Maj. Skip Smith, 1010 Harrisburg Dr. NE, Lenoir, NC 28645. Phone: (704) 758-8655.

## Win big with a recipe for turkey

Winners of the 1997 North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest will get $1,900 in prizes on September 18 in Raeford. Recipes must use at least one pound of turkey meat and serve four or more people. Judging is based on taste, simplicity, appearance and appeal.

To enter, send your name, address, phone number and recipe to the Turkey Contest, N.C. Turkey Federation, 4020 Barrett Dr., Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27609. (Entries must be in no later than June 1.)

## Nashville photographer remembers bluegrass

Les Leverett, a photojournalist and 1966 Grammy winner for the best album cover photography, showcases a collection of his work in "Blue Moon of Kentucky." Leverett's book retells the story of his career in Nashville covering bluegrass and country music artists. For over 36 years, Leverett's photography appeared in books, magazines, videos and album covers. Some of the subjects in this book include Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs, Grandpa Jones, Roy Acuff, Doc Watson and The Johnson Mountain Boys.

"Blue Moon of Kentucky" is available in softcover for $15 (plus $2 shipping) from Empire Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 717, Madison, NC 27025-0717. Phone: (910) 427-5850. Based in North Carolina, Empire Publishing Inc. is a member of the Davidson Electric Membership Corporation.

BLUE MOON OF KENTUCKY
A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF BLUEGRASS AND COUNTRY MUSIC
AS SEEN THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS OF PHOTO-JOURNALIST
LES LEVERETT

## ASU opens a center for business research

Appalachian State University recently established a Center for Business Research in the John A. Walker College of Business. The center is committed to providing research assistance to business organizations and government agencies. The center conducts research that is used to develop strategic plans, marketing plans and business solutions to complex problems. One of the focus areas is the tourism industry. For more information, contact the Center for Business Research, John A. Walker College of Business, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608. Phone: (704) 262-7724.

## A guide for brides-to-be

From accessories to wedding vows, "Weddings: A Celebration" by Beverly Clark, a wedding consultant and author, contains ideas for brides to personalize their special day. In over 276 pages, Clark's book covers 10 areas dealing with weddings: wedding style, unique weddings, invitations and favors, celebrations, wedding party, flowers, ceremony, receptions, cakes and bon voyage.

There are more than 500 color photographs, a planning calendar and a detailed source directory. "Weddings: A Celebration" is available for $60 (hardcover) from Wilshire Publications, 1120 Mark Ave., Carpinteria, CA 93013. Phone: (805) 566-1425.

## American Lung Association has its privileges

The American Lung Association of North Carolina, Eastern Area, announces its 14th year in the Golf Privilege Card Program. The fund-raising proceeds help continue the association's health education programs. For a one-time fee of $40, golfers can enjoy playing over 290 premier clubs in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia free for a year. Golf Privilege Card purchasers receive a golf booklet with a detailed listing of all participating golf courses. For a free brochure, contact The American Lung Association of North Carolina, Eastern Area, 112 S Pitt St., P.O. Box 1407, Greenville, NC 27835-1407. Phone: (800) 849-5949.

## Essay about retirement could win you $150

Any retiree who has moved to North Carolina from anywhere outside the state since 1987 is invited to participate in an essay contest sponsored by Retirement Lifestyles in North Carolina.

Interested participants are asked to write 750 words or less on the topic: "Why I Retired to North Carolina and Love It!" The winner will receive $150, and the essay and photograph of the winning writer will be published in the inaugural edition of Retirement Lifestyles. Two runner-up entries will each receive $50.

A new publication designed to educate potential retirees about North Carolina's retirement opportunities, Retirement Lifestyles in North Carolina, a full-color tabloid, will debut in May, says publisher Dan Owens of Charlotte.

Essays must be typed and double-spaced and postmarked by March 24 to be eligible. All become the property of Retirement Lifestyles magazine. Mail entries to Retirement Lifestyles, PO Box 11968, Charlotte, NC 28220.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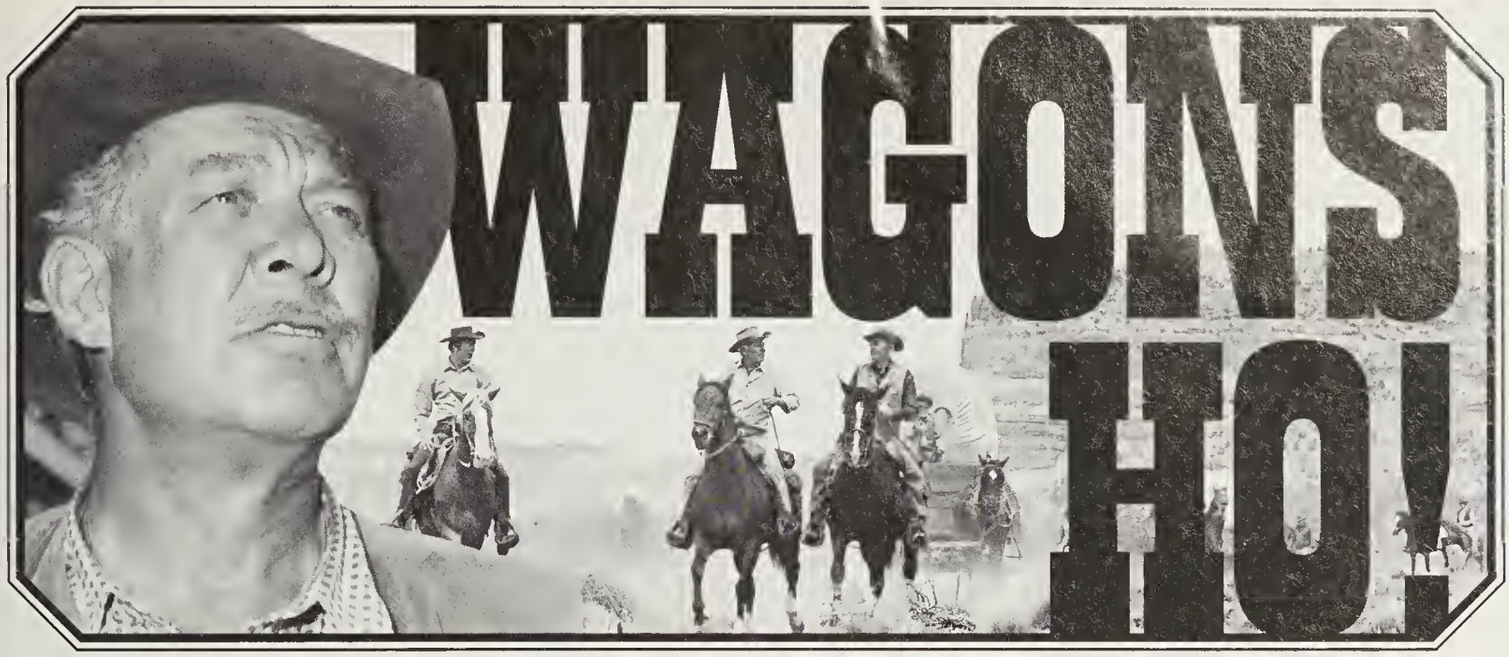


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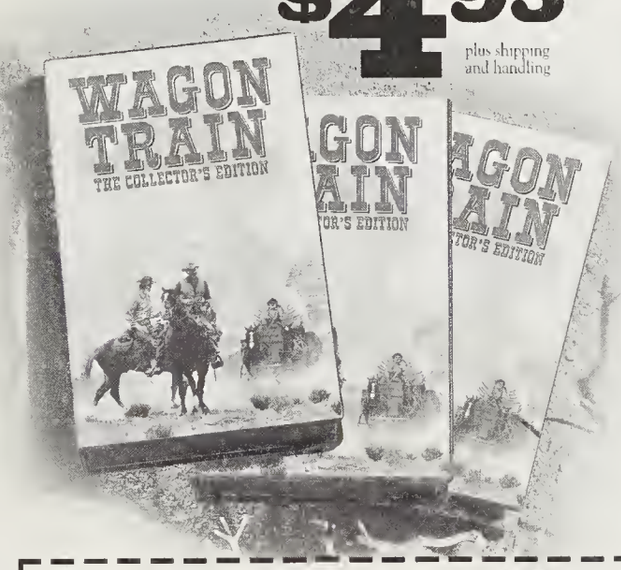

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## Co-ops award $290,280 to public schools for 1996-97 Bright Ideas

The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, awarded $290,280 for innovative projects to improve instruction in North Carolina schools in 1996-97. Over three years, cooperatives have awarded $810,000 for nearly 1,000 public school projects across the state.

The competitive program, which provides funding for instructional initiatives public schools otherwise could not afford, has clearly struck a chord with Tar Heel educators. Cooperatives have been flooded with applications. In its inaugural year, co-ops received about 1,200 applications, and in 1996 the number reached nearly 1,800.

Grants awarded in 1994 and 1995 benefited more than 200,000 students, based on their impact in the first year alone. Additional thousands will benefit students in ensuing years when the projects are repeated without further financial support.

The 1997-98 Bright Ideas program will gear up this summer. For more information about Bright Ideas grants, call (800) 662-8835, ext. 316 or ext. 366.

## Cooperatives help sponsor 5th-grade trip to White House

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation in Pantego and the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives helped support a Snowden Elementary social studies class trip to Washington, D.C. by invitation of the first family.

Ron Clark's fifth-grade class got the Clintons' attention last year after they put educational puzzles in local newspapers. An anonymous admirer gave them $12,000 to sponsor an ad in USA Today. The puzzle was aimed at the Clintons. Their question was, "What kills more than suicides, AIDS, illegal drugs, murders and alcohol combined?" Hillary Clinton called with the answer — tobacco — and invited the group to the White House.

This year, Clark organized an after-school social studies club composed of 13 students from his fifth-grade class. Their goal was to encourage people to vote. The students produced a television commercial and T-shirts, and inserted 10,000 letters in a Sunday edition of The Washington Daily News.

"It took no motivation," Clark said. "They had the excitement and energy. My job was to put the excitement and energy to use."

Once again, a call came from the White House inviting the group to D.C. this past December. Besides the White House, the student group visited their district's representative in Congress, Eva Clayton, and toured USA Today offices.

## Energy audits save money for Union County schools

Union Electric Membership Corporation in Monroe conducted energy audits of five schools in Union County in an effort to help the schools lower their energy costs.

By reviewing everything from a school's massive heating and air conditioning systems to the number of lights left on at night, the energy auditors contracted by Union EMC were able to pinpoint areas where each school system could save money.

The audits produced specific recommendations for saving energy for each school, many of which would require up-front investments in efficiency. Since budget restraints often prevent schools from making such investments, the firm also suggested less expensive steps the schools could take, such as yearly maintenance of heating and cooling systems and careful monitoring of power usage after school hours.

## Four County shows its facilities

Four County Electric Membership Corporation in Burgaw recently hosted a system-wide plant facilities tour for cooperative members, community leaders and the media. The all-day tour included visits to the cooperative's corporate offices and warehouse, substations and several of the co-op's largest industrial power consumers.

The guests learned about the cooperative's operations, how electricity is delivered, the concepts of peak demand and load control, and the right-of-way clearing process.

"We appreciate the opportunity to let our community leaders and members see how their business operates," said Edward Brown, manager of Four County EMC.

## Davidson EMC helps lure Diebold to Lexington

Diebold, Inc., a pioneer in automated teller machine technology, will establish a manufacturing facility in Lexington this spring.

Initial construction and start-up costs represent an $8 million infusion into the community. Diebold anticipates the plant will employee about 50 people at first and 200 after two years of operation.

The announcement follows a total community effort to bring the Ohio-based industry to Lexington, an effort in which Davidson EMC played an integral role. The incentive package to draw Diebold to the area included a $500,000 loan from Davidson EMC through the NCEMC Business Development Revolving Loan Fund Program. The loan will help customize a shell building in the Lexington Business Center. Other monies came from the state, Davidson County, the City of Lexington, the Lexington Development Company and Davidson Progress, a non-profit economic development group.

Wayne Wilkins, Davidson EMC's executive vice president, said, "Diebold's choice to locate in Lexington is a perfect example of a public/private partnership that benefits the entire region."

## Cape Hatteras encourages community involvement

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative encourages employees to become involved in community service. In the absence of a United Way program on Hatteras Island, the cooperative will match employee contributions to pre-approved organizations such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts up to 50 percent. The corporate donation limit is set at $500 per year per participant.

To support volunteerism, Cape Hatteras co-op also grants each employee three days leave annually with pay to attend volunteer development and leadership programs. General Manager Jim Sherfey says that community organizations "must have trained leaders and workers and also be able to attend programs and conferences to keep themselves informed about the programs they're involved in."


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# Easy-to-install central air cleaners

A central air cleaner (mounted in the blower unit of a furnace or heat pump) is the most effective method to improve indoor air quality and reduce allergies. The cleaner can remove most allergens and dirt particles as all the air inside your house passes through the blower unit many times each day.

Heat pumps and gas or oil furnaces actually run more efficiently with a high-quality central air cleaner. By removing most of the dust particles, the heat exchanger surfaces or heat pump coils stay cleaner, too. Even a fine layer of dust and dirt buildup on these surfaces acts as an insulator against efficient heat transfer. The improvement in efficiency and comfort is also noticeable during the summer air-conditioning season.

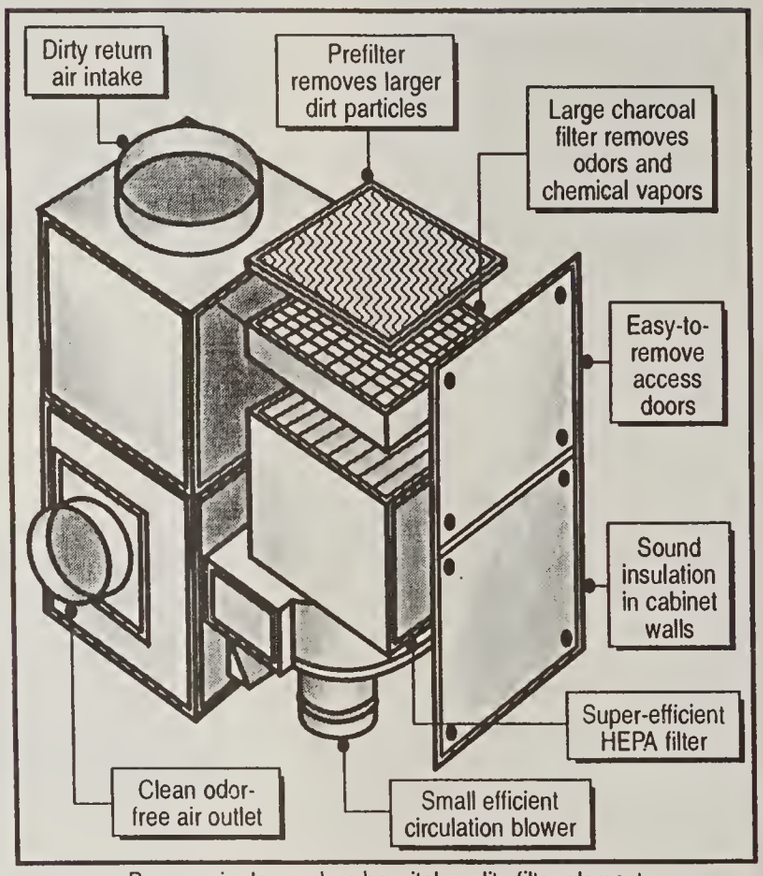
Although a typical 99-cent fiberglass filter helps some, many dust and allergen particles pass right through it. My house is all-electric with a heat pump, and I am allergic to mold, cats and pollen. I have tested most of the various designs of central air cleaners and several of them really relieved my allergies and kept the house nearly dust-free. I have used each separately and two together.

There are several designs of effective central air cleaners that you can install yourself without being an expert sheet metal worker. One is a free-standing bypass design that hooks up with the existing heating duct system. The bypass design uses a hospital operating room quality high efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA). It also includes a large charcoal filter element to reduce odors and remove some cancer-causing volatile chemicals from the air.

This HEPA air cleaner removes 99.97 percent of the particles that cause allergies and even very tiny smoke particles. It has its own small blower motor to force the return duct air through the HEPA filter. It is connected to the existing main return duct by two short pieces of round duct. If you can cut a hole with tin snips, you should be able to install it yourself in about one hour. It is wired to operate only when the furnace blower runs.

Another effective type of air cleaner is a self-charging electrostatic design. These air cleaners create their own static charge as air moves through them, similar to rubbing your socks on a carpet. This small static electrical charge, along with the filter media, easily traps particles of typical allergy-causing size.

Most self-charging electrostatic filters are one inch thick, so they slide into the existing filter slot. Some self-charging electrostatic models are treated with activated carbon to reduce odors. Models with antimicrobial coatings kill bacteria and viruses. Other options are a fire/smoke shut-off and a built-in whistle to signal


Dirty return air intake
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Large charcoal filter removes odors and chemical vapors
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Super-efficient HEPA filter
Clean odor-free air outlet
Small efficient circulation blower

Bypass air cleaner has hospital-quality filter element

cleaning time. To clean one, slide it out and squirt it off outdoors with a garden hose or rinse it in your bathtub. They last for many years.

Electronic and pleated media central air cleaners require more extensive sheet metal work for installation (they are thicker), but they clean well. Electronic models are very effective for small particles like cigarette, wood or cooking smoke particles. They use very little electricity to create the electrostatic charges and to operate the controls.

To maintain high cleaning efficiency, clean the collector cells in your dishwasher every month or two. Since they clean electronically, not by forcing air through a filtration medium, there is very little pressure drop (air flow resistance) across them. This eliminates any drop in furnace efficiency due to a dirty, clogged filter.

A replaceable pleated media filter uses a HEPA-like filter material. It is not as good as true HEPA, but it is much better than the cheap standard fiberglass filter. Most pleated media filter elements should last up to one year.

Write for Utility Bills Update No. 534 showing a buyer's guide of 15 whole-house air cleaner manufacturers, filtration methods, filter efficiency ratings, prices and a chart showing which ones are most effective for various allergens. Please include $2.00 and a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope. Send it to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.

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| 21 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 22 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 23 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 24 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 25 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 26 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 27 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 28 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 29 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 30 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 31 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 32 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 33 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
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| 35 | 8.34 | 8.34 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 45.84 | 45.84 |
| 36 | 8.38 | 8.34 | 12.59 | 12.50 | 25.21 | 25.00 | 46.25 | 45.84 |
| 37 | 8.42 | 8.34 | 12.67 | 12.50 | 25.42 | 25.00 | 46.67 | 45.84 |
| 38 | 8.46 | 8.34 | 12.75 | 12.50 | 25.63 | 25.00 | 47.09 | 45.84 |
| 39 | 8.50 | 8.34 | 12.84 | 12.50 | 25.84 | 25.00 | 47.50 | 45.84 |
| 40 | 8.55 | 8.38 | 12.92 | 12.59 | 26.05 | 25.21 | 47.92 | 46.25 |
| 41 | 8.59 | 8.42 | 13.00 | 12.67 | 26.25 | 25.42 | 48.34 | 46.67 |
| 42 | 8.65 | 8.46 | 13.09 | 12.75 | 26.46 | 25.63 | 48.75 | 47.08 |
| 43 | 8.67 | 8.50 | 13.17 | 12.84 | 26.67 | 25.84 | 49.17 | 47.50 |

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| 45 | 8.75 | 8.59 | 13.34 | 13.00 | 27.09 | 26.25 | 50.00 | 48.34 |
| 46 | 8.96 | 8.65 | 13.75 | 13.09 | 28.13 | 26.46 | 52.09 | 48.75 |
| 47 | 9.38 | 8.67 | 14.59 | 13.17 | 30.21 | 26.67 | 56.25 | 49.17 |
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| 58 | 16.05 | 12.71 | 27.92 | 21.25 | 63.55 | 46.88 | 122.92 | 89.59 |
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| 60 | 22.09 | 14.38 | 40.00 | 24.59 | 93.75 | 55.21 | 183.34 | 106.25 |
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| 63 | 25.42 | 17.09 | 46.67 | 30.00 | 110.42 | 68.75 | 216.67 | 133.34 |
| 64 | 26.67 | 22.09 | 49.17 | 40.00 | 116.67 | 93.75 | 229.17 | 183.34 |
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# Carolina Compass

Deadlines: May issue .....March 25
June issue .....April 25
July issue.....May 25

Send notices to Carolina Country
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

## Michelob Cup Skiing

*March 1-2, Banner Elk*
Pro/amateur ski race. Elimination, finals and awards. Hawksnest Ski Resort. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free. (704) 963-6561.

## "Coyote Tales"

*March 2, Greensboro*
Touring Theatre Ensemble production for children. Dinner-theatre showcase. Greensboro Airport Marriott. 6:30 p.m. $40. (910) 272-1279.

## "The Miracle Worker"

*March 3-5, Boiling Springs*
Auditions for spring drama. Dover Theatre at Gardner-Webb University. 6:30 - 9 p.m. Free. (704) 434-4637.

## N.C. Symphony

*March 5, Southern Pines*
Performance featuring Andre Watts, pianist. Pinecrest High School Auditorium. 8 p.m. $20. (910) 692-4356.

## Friday at Five

*March 7, Greensboro*
An after-work party, live music, food. The Depot in Downtown Greensboro. 5 - 8:30 p.m. $3. (910) 272-6617.

## Smoke on the Mountain

*March 13-17, Shelby*
Bluegrass gospel comedy circa 1938 directed by Linda Pangburn-Bogan. Cleveland Community College Auditorium. All shows at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday at 2 p.m. Adults $8, students $6. (704) 484-8381.

## "Sleeping Beauty"

*March 14, Southern Pines*
Presented by the Sandhills Dance and Performing Arts Academy. Robert E. Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School. 7:30 p.m. $10 adults, $7 children. (910) 295-3677.

## Returning to Roots

*March 14, Wilmington*
Explore the wide variety of plants with Perry Mathewes, curator. Cape Fear Museum,11 a.m. Free. (910) 341-4350.

## Old-Time Square Dance

*March 15, Denton*
Traditional Appalachian-style square dance, live bluegrass and old-time music. Denton Civic Center. 7 - 10:30 p.m. Adults $4, children free. (910) 475-9397.

## Farm Toy Show

*March 15, Jonesville*
Buy, sell or trade tractors, trucks and farm-related equipment. Holiday Inn. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Adults $2, children free. (910) 468-2575.

## Friskies Lead Show

*March 15-16, Charlotte*
Fancy Feast Cat, cat training demonstrations, performances, autographs by mystery author, Lilian Jackson. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. $5 adults, $2 children. (910) 282-3089.

## Arts & Crafts Show

*March 15-16, Shelby*
Easter theme. Cleveland County Fairgrounds. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m., Sunday. $1. (704) 487-0651.

## Home Products Show

*March 15-16, Shelby*
Display of home accessories, furnishings, building materials and construction techniques. Cleveland Mall. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m., Sunday. Free. (704) 484-8700.

## Appalachian Symphony

*March 16, Boone*
Presented by the ASU School of Music. ASU Broyhill Music Center, 2 p.m. Free. (704) 262-3020.

## Decorative Arts Symposium

*March 16-18, New Bern*
"In Pursuit of Gentility: Signs of Fashion and Taste in Polite Society." Tips on being a well-bred person of the 18th century. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m., Sunday. $195-225. (800) 767-9111.

## Elderhostel

*March 16-22, Boone*
Instruction, lodging and meals for three programs: Appalachian History, New World Order and Judaism in the South. ASU Broyhill Inn. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. $370. (704) 262-3045.

## Making Beer

*March 20, Durham*
Learn the science, taste test home and micro brews. Museum of Life and Science. 7 - 9 p.m. $20 members, $25 non-members. (919) 220-5429.

## Guitar Fest

*March 21-23, Boone*
ASU School of Music. ASU Broyhill Music Center. 7:30 p.m., Friday through Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. $8 adults, $5 students. (704) 262-3020.

## Bunny Day

*March 22, Greensboro*
Live bunnies, bunny crafts, face painting. Natural Science Center of Greensboro. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. $3.50 adults, $2.50 children. (910) 288-3769.

## Cookin' Up Compost

*March 22, Durham*
Workshop on creating natural fertilizer, digging for worms and maintaining a home bin. Museum of Life and Science. 10 - 11:30 a.m. $12 members, $15 non-members. (919) 220-5429.

## Lincolnton Lion's March

*March 22, Sherrills Ford*
2nd Annual 5K run for Camp Dogwood. Camp Dogwood. $15 early registration, $16 day of race. (704) 735-8154.

## "Behold the Lamb"

*March 27-30, Lillington*
10th annual Easter drama production. Pentecost Center Church. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Free. (910) 893-5652.

## Easter Horse Show

*March 28-29, Greensboro*
Barn dance, bull riding, draft horse pull. Oak Ridge Elementary School. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. $5. (910) 643-4151.

## Arts & Crafts Guild

*March 29, Buxton*
Handmade baskets, wood carvings, cross-stitch, pottery, raffle. Cape Hatteras School. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Proceeds from raffle go towards college scholarships. Free. (919) 995-4291.

## "Messiah"

*March 29, Pinetown*
Performed by the Terra Ceia Community Choir. Nursery provided. Terra Ceia Christian Reformed Church. 8 p.m. Free. (919) 943-2957.

## Homes & Gardens Tour

*April 4-5, New Bern*
Self-guided tours through historic homes, private gardens, churches. Historical Society office. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. $12.50 advance, $15 door. (919) 638-8558.

## Weekend for Gardeners

*April 4-6, New Bern*
Spring displays of over 35,000 bulbs, plants and free lecture. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free. (800) 767-1560.

## Spring Herb Sale

*April 5, Matthews*
Culinary, medicinal and fragrant varieties. 15908 Deepwood Place. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free. (704) 882-2669.

### Herb Fair & Garden Sale

*April 5, Wilmington*
Workshop, classes on herbs. Plant and garden sale. Poplar Grove Plantation. (910) 686-4868.

### Spring Fever Show

*April 5-6, Sanford*
Over 75 exhibitors featuring handmade crafts, food and prizes. Half admission charge donated to the Hospice of Lee County. Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday; 12:30 - 5 p.m., Sunday. $1. (919) 776-9580.

### In the Trenches

*April 6, Wilmington*
Exhibition remembering the men from the Cape Fear region who served in the 30th Division of WWI. Cape Fear Museum. 2 - 5 p.m. Free. (910) 341-4037.

## ONGOING

### African-American Arts Festival

*through March 16, Greensboro*
Musical concerts, theatre and dance presentations, workshops, visual art exhibits. Greensboro Cultural Center. Hours vary upon event. Adults $10, students $7. (910) 333-7440.

### "Recycled Crafts Contest"

*through April 1, Waynesville*
National craft month celebration and competition. First, second and third place prizes. Haywood Handcrafters. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free. (704) 452-7662.

### Ships in Miniature

*through May 4, Beaufort*
Displays of various ship models. Half models, fully-rigged clipper ships, ships-in-a-bottle, radio-controlled racing yachts. North Carolina Maritime Museum. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m. Free. (919) 728-7317.

### "On the Wing"

*through May 15, Asheboro*
Flying bird-of-prey show. Eagles, owls, falcons and hawks. North Carolina Zoological Park. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., November through March; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., April through October. $8 adults, $5 children. (800) 488-0444.

*continued on next page*

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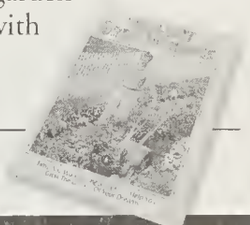

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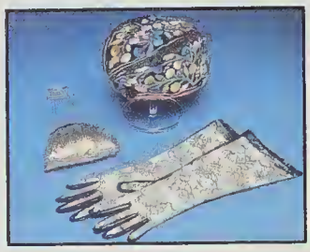
## Carolina Compass

*continued from previous page*

### "Comets are Coming!"

*through June 8, Chapel Hill*

History of comets, celestial viewing. Morehead Planetarium at UNC-Chapel Hill. Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. $3.50 adults, $2.50 students. (919) 549-6963.



### First Families of N.C.

*through July 20, Raleigh*

Past N.C. governors and fist ladies exhibit. Over 200 artifacts, photographs, suits and gowns. North Carolina Museum of History. Closed Monday; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 - 5 p.m., Sunday. Free. (919) 715-0200.

### Junior Sailing Program

*June 9-Aug. 1, Beaufort*

Learn to sail. Ages 8 to 15. North Carolina Maritime Museum. 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., morning classes; 1 - 4:30 p.m., afternoon classes. $150. (919) 728-7317.

### Ceramic Art of N.C.

*through Aug. 24, Charlotte*

Over 300 pottery works with a collection from Dorothy Cole Auman and Daisy Wade Bridges. Mint Museum of Art. Closed Monday; 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Tuesday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday; 12 - 5 p.m., Sunday. $4 adults, $2 students. (704) 333-6468.

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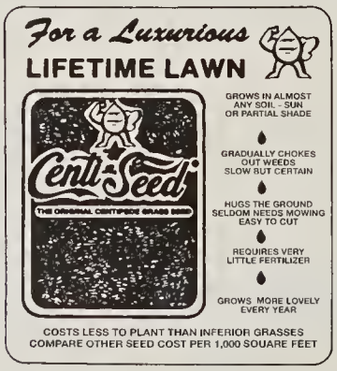
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# Joyner's Corner

by Charles Joyner

## How many robins make a Spring?

Letters have been substituted for digits in this multiplication problem.

Can you replace the digits to find how many ROBINs make a SPRING?

Repeated letters stand for repeated digits. N x ROBIN = SPRING.

```
  R O B I N
  _ _ _ _ _
          N
      X   _
  ---------
S P R I N G
_ _ _ _ _ _
```

Answers on page 46

## Southern Exposures

### Some Of The People, Some Of The Time

In March 1996, Buncombe County residents were inconvenienced over two weekends when their water lines were flushed. That was bad enough. But right on the heels of "the great flush" came this news from radio station WKSF-FM: "Telephone lines throughout the county will be flushed of electro-static dust for five minutes on Monday."

An announcer for the radio station cautioned listeners to cover their phones with plastic bags so that the dust wouldn't get into their homes. One lady called the general manager of the "Kiss Country" station to say that she works with elderly people who have allergies. She was upset. So were telephone company officials.

The Monday of the purported electro-static dust flush came and went without any interruption of telephone service. It was April 1 (April Fool's Day). Station manager Bill McMartin says he and his staff are already planning this year's prank.

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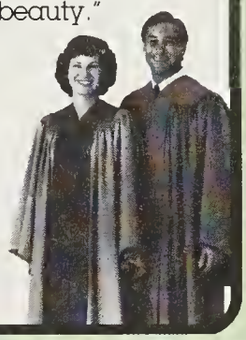

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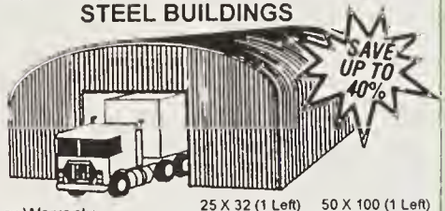


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# Hank's Gardening Guide by Hank Smith

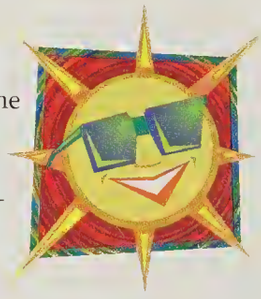
As March blows February from the calendar, the beauty of spring arrives. Early displays of floral color come alive with crocus and early flowering shrubs. Showy displays of redbud, forsythia, violets and daffodils will soon be followed by dancing tulips. As the days grow longer, gardening activities increase. Container-grown and balled-and-burlapped plants are already available in garden centers and nurseries. Finish planting woody-ornamentals this month before tender new growth begins to show, so that the plants have enough time to establish an effective root system to withstand the growth stresses of summer's heat.

## Ground covers

While the weather is still cool, plant ground covers in bare areas where grass has a problem growing. Several excellent ground covers can be used beneath shady trees in areas where grass has difficulty growing. Ajuga, perennial, periwinkle, pachysandra and ivy are easy and effective ground covers.

When using ivy, make sure to keep it cut away from tree trunks. Ivy can climb into the branches of a tree and eventually compete with the tree's leaves for space and sunlight. In openly sunny areas, use one of the low-spreading junipers, santolina or cotoneaster (rock spray). With large trees, cut away their lower branches so enough light can pass through to help grass grow.

## Prepare for hot weather



It is impossible to know ahead of time when a long dry spell will occur during the summer. So, in addition to soil cultivation, use a thick mulch to help conserve moisture in the soil for plants. Mulches are especially needed in exposed, dry or windy areas. In extended dry spells, mulch saves plants that might otherwise die from lack of moisture. A thick mulch of 3 to 6 inches should be made with peat moss, dry bark chips or similar material.

## Pruning

Prune deciduous trees, shrubs and woody vines after they complete their flowering cycle. On multi-stemmed plants, such as flowering quince and forsythia, cut back about one-third of older stems all the way to the ground. Shorten branches of other types to give a natural look. Avoid a formal, boxed-or-balled appearance except when the look is necessary to the formal landscape where compact profiles are desired to accent the architecture of the building.

## Lawn care

Established lawns should receive their first mowing of the year later this month or in early April. Cut grass as short as possible. Rake and remove all clippings and accumulated debris. A "catcher bag" on the mower is an aid used to save time and effort.

Before mowing, check the sharpness of the mower blades, so that they will make a clean cut of the tips of grass blades without crushing or bruising them. If chlorosis has been a problem causing a yellowish cast to the grass, then use an application of iron sulfate that will improve the lawn. After mowing, apply a complete fertilizer at a rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn area. For excellent results, use a 10-5-5 or similar analysis.

## Vegetable garden

Till the garden by thoroughly mixing accumulated organic matter and compost that has piled up during the winter months. Add a liberal amount of complete fertilizer. If the ground has already been prepared, then set out collard and cabbage plants, onions and Irish potatoes. Sow seeds of English peas, spinach, turnips, radishes and mustard. After the danger of frost has gone, plant seeds of beans, okra, squash, corn and other warm-season vegetables. Don't set out tomatoes, peppers or eggplants for at least a month.

## Weed control

If you are not opposed to chemical weed control, then now is the time to "pinch the little heads" off of such common annual broadleaf weeds as chickweed and purslane. Also, attack weedy grasses such as crabgrass and goose grass. Apply chemicals only to established lawns and follow the directions on the container.

## Feeding

Apply complete fertilizer to all plants that are permanent to the landscape design. Give camellias and azaleas a special acid fertilizer as they complete blooming. Until very hot weather arrives, continue feeding these plants monthly.

## Gladiolus-extended color

Select and plant gladiolus corms for tall background color in the flower bed, as well as excellent cut flowers. Choose colors appropriate to your interior color schemes. Glads prefer a sunny, well-drained location. Select corms (bulbs) that are a good size and make sure they are free from soft spots and blemishes. Plant corms about 4 inches apart and cover with 4 to 6 inches of soil. Keep the soil moist. For a good supply of blooms, plant corms about every two weeks through June.

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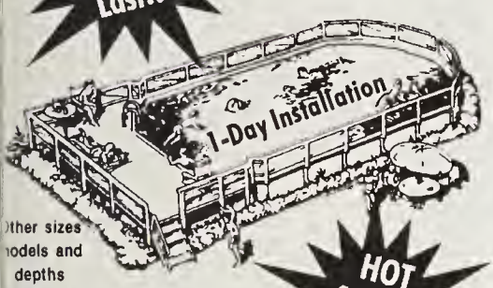


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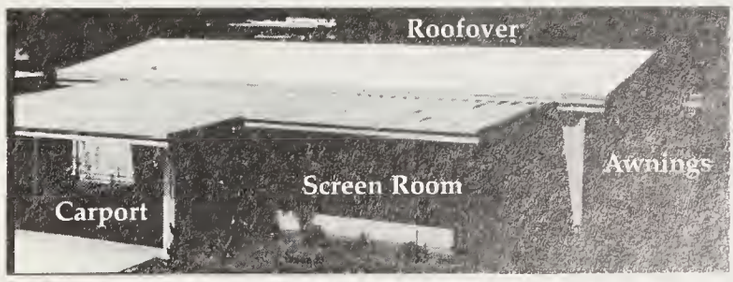


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## Satchel Paige's tips for staying young

As James Lee Burney was searching through his files for photos we might use with our feature (pages 16-17) about his career as chief lobbyist for North Carolina's electric co-ops, he turned up a yellowed copy of a quote that intrigued me.

It was a list of rules titled, "How To Stay Young," which was credited to the legendary baseball star Satchel Paige. A friend had sent it to James Lee years ago.

The item caught my eye because it includes the black athlete's famous one-liner about never looking back. I'd never seen it as part of a longer quote. Here's the complete list:

### *How to Stay Young*

1. Avoid fried meats which angry up the blood.
2. If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts.
3. Keep the juices flowing by jingling around gently as you move.
4. Go very lightly on the vices, such as carrying on in society.
5. Avoid running at all times.
6. Don't look back. Somebody might be gaining on you.

— *Satchel Paige*

## There is help for lone antiques addicts

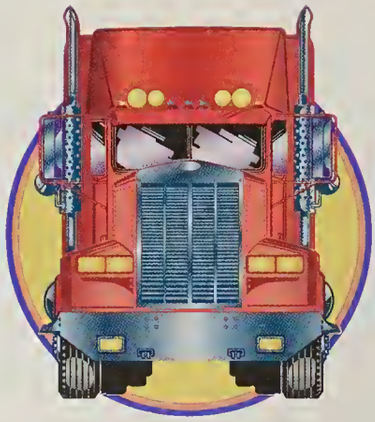
Here's another item that intrigued me when I stumbled upon it recently in a Raleigh antique store. It demonstrates just how difficult it must be these days for single people to find dates who can share a common interest.

The small flyer was aimed at single "antique lovers" who face that dilemma. It invited them to join an "antiques and collectibles singles exchange" called Antiques Lovers ™.

The service pledged to "socially link" singles in the Mid-Atlantic region, providing personal profile introductions for "antiques addicts."

Members get regular notices about antique shows, social events and singles weekends.

If you're so inclined, here's how to get more information: Write to Antiques Lovers, P. O. Box 363, Devon, PA 19333. Or call (610) 341-1950.



## In praise of truck drivers tooting their own horns

"Ninety percent of driving is common sense and the other ten percent is courtesy. Sadly some folks are found lacking in one or both."

That observation came from a Morganton truck driver, who took issue with Audrey L. Bollero's comments about "Merge Ahead" signs and "holier-than-thou truckers" in our December column.

Racheal Hudson, who said she has logged more than a million miles driving an 18-wheeler without an accident, objected to Bollero's complaint that highway construction workers place "Merge Ahead" signs too far ahead of the merge point. The workers, Hudson said, must follow guidelines based on studies of motorists' behavior and typical traffic flow patterns. "The classic bottleneck is just one of the things the merge sign is trying to prevent. Accidents and fatalities are the major reasons."

In any event, "once the construction sign or merge sign is posted, it is the law!" she said, adding: "If each vehicle would take its place in line and go single file as requested or advised by the merge sign, everyone could get through in a timely manner."

Jim Moffett, a truck driver from of Gastonia, also wrote in response to Bollero's letter, saying she needs to look at the merge problem from a trucker's viewpoint. Truck drivers often block the merging lane to keep the "line cutters" from forcing themselves into the line of traffic, he said.

"Here is how it all works. If a truck blocks the lane, the impatient line cutters can't travel down past those of you who have had to wait in line. . . . It also eliminates the bottleneck at the merge, which is created by these people and allows traffic to flow freely through the construction."

Moffett pointed out that truckers can talk to one another by radio to learn where the "real" merge is and could "zip right past all those in line but, more often than not, we patiently take our place in line and even try to ensure that the patient drivers get through in a timely manner."

If the average motorist is upset by traffic problems, he said, "Just imagine how frustrated I get doing this for a living as I fight through construction, city rush hours, accidents, bad weather and ill-mannered motorists. I do this to put clothes on your back, food in your stomach, and provide you with a life of conveniences and enjoyments. Everything in this country has been on a truck at some point or another — everything.. . . I think it is time to look all around you and thank God we have truckers!"

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*½ cup Crisco*
*2 ¾ cups sugar*
*3 cups plain sifted flour*
*1 teaspoon vanilla*
*2 sticks butter or margarine*
*6 eggs*
*¼ cup milk*
*Large can crushed pineapple*

Cream Crisco and butter. Add sugar, mixing thoroughly. Slowly add eggs and beat well. Add ¾ cup of the pineapple, undrained. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour into greased tube pan. Place in cold oven and turn heat to 325°. Bake one hour and 20 minutes.

*Topping, Mix together*

*½ stick melted butter*
*1½ cups powdered sugar*
*1 cup drained pineapple (pour reserved juice over cake)*

Pour topping over cake while hot.

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**Answer to Joyner's Corner**

*(from page 39)*

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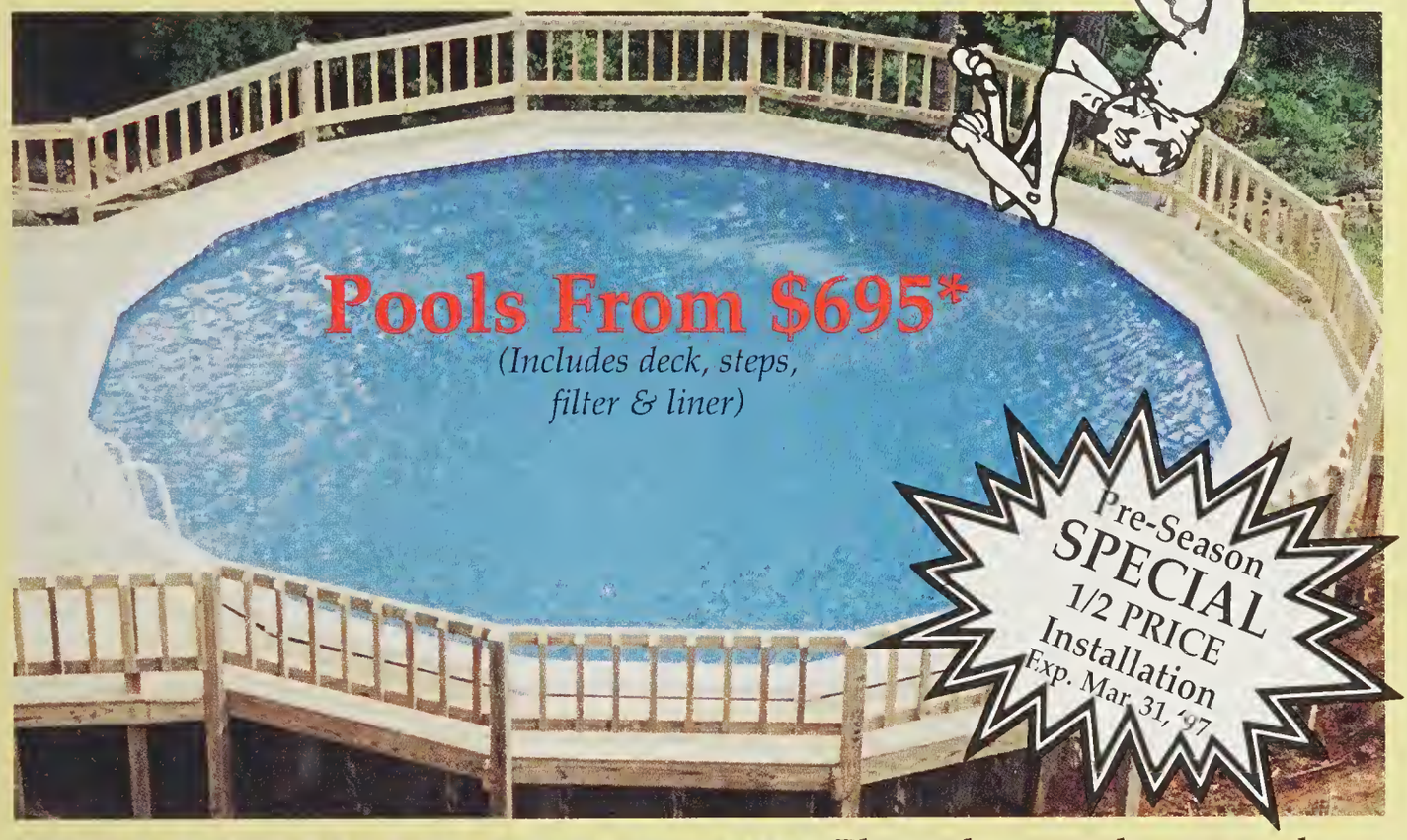

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